

# Wrestling

1976 ANNUAL # 17

THE BEST MATCHES IN  
BRUNO SAMMARTINO'S  
CAREER





# BEGINNERS MAKE UP TO \$25<sup>00</sup> IN AN HOUR



Some do even better immediately ... and, with a little experience, cash earnings of \$50.00...\$100.00 and more in an hour are possible for YOU!

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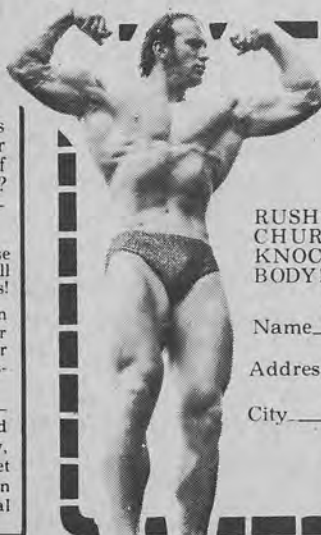
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# Wrestling

## 1976 ANNUAL

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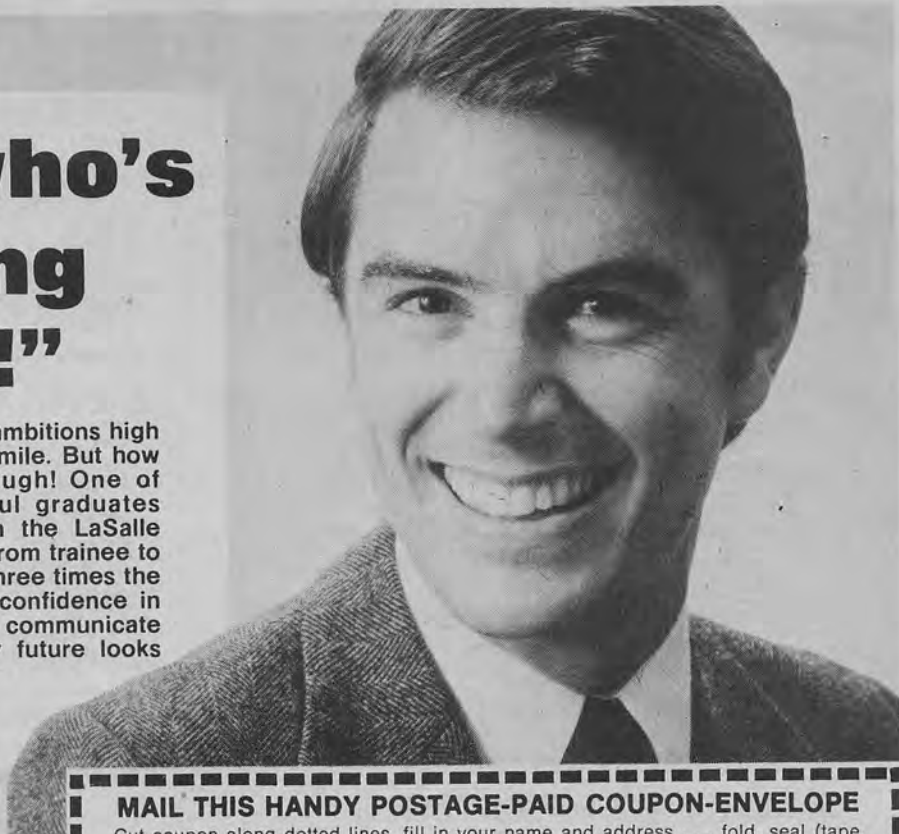


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# OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

## WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

CHAMPION: BRUNO SAMMARTINO

- 1—BRUISER BRODIE
- 2—STAN HANSEN
- 3—IVAN PUTSKI
- 4—TOR KAMATA
- 5—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 6—BOBO BRAZIL
- 7—BILLY WHITE WOLF
- 8—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
- 9—DOUG GILBERT
- 10—GORILLA MONSOON

## AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKLE

- 1—VERNE GAGNE
- 2—LARRY HENNIG
- 3—PETER MAIVIA
- 4—BLACKJACK LANZA
- 5—BOBBY DUNCUM
- 6—GREG GAGNE
- 7—MAD DOG VACHON
- 8—BARON VON RASCHKE
- 9—JIM BRUNZELL
- 10—RUSS FRANCIS

## MOST POPULAR WRESTLERS

- 1—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 2—BRUNO SAMMARTINO
- 3—DUSTY RHODES
- 4—MIL MASCARAS
- 5—MR. WRESTLING II
- 6—IVAN PUTSKI
- 7—BOBO BRAZIL
- 8—JACK BRISCO
- 9—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 10—PAUL JONES

## NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

CHAMPION: TERRY FUNK

- 1—JACK BRISCO
- 2—DUSTY RHODES
- 3—ROCKY JOHNSON
- 4—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
- 5—THE SHEIK
- 6—FRITZ VON ERICH
- 7—JERRY LAWLER
- 8—RIC FLAIR
- 9—PAUL JONES
- 10—BOB ORTON JR.

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS
- 2—THE MASKED EXECUTIONERS
- 3—BRUISER & CRUSHER
- 4—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW & BILLY WHITE WOLF
- 5—BLACKJACK LANZA & BOBBY DUNCUM
- 6—BOB ROOP & BOB ORTON SR.
- 7—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
- 8—GOLIATH & BLACK GORDMAN
- 9—THE MONGOLS
- 10—BOB BACKLUND & STEVE KEIRN

## MOST HATED WRESTLERS

- 1—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
- 2—STAN HANSEN
- 3—THE SHEIK
- 4—MAD DOG VACHON
- 5—THE SPOILER
- 6—RAY STEVENS
- 7—STAN STASIAK
- 8—TERRY FUNK
- 9—BARON VON RASCHKE
- 10—MOONDOG MAYNE



CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW



MAD DOG VACHON



THE SHEIK



ERNIE LADD



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Protect Yourself and your loved ones! STOP ANY ATTACKER with frightening devastating Nunchaku Sticks Swings, Strikes, Catches, Pinches, Choking and other wipe-out techniques... all yours to learn in no time at all! The application of the Nunchaku, to be effective, requires a mere flick of the wrist quickly, a firm grip, and a sense of determination. You will be able to strike an opponent and whip out the chaku (one stick) quickly and effortlessly before your attacker can offer any defense. The greatest advantage of the Nunchakus over any other form of self-defense like Karate or Kung Fu is that this weapon is an extension of your hands and legs. With one swing the Nunchaku will double in size therefore shortening the distance between you and your opponent. Imagine, being able to strike, crush, jab, or thrust at your enemy without having to fear his mightiest kick or punch! Your attacker will not be prepared and will not be warned of the unusually long striking range of your Nunchakus. Also the sticks by themselves look relatively harmless. This being the case, you have the great advantage of surprise which will allow you to handle any threatening situation that may occur.

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**SPECIAL LIMITED OFFER:** For 30 Days Only - you can purchase the course and sticks for only \$14.98 each, plus \$1.25 postage.\*\* And, if you act now, you will receive a FREE OFFICIAL O.K.K.A. IDENTIFICATION CARD! (Sticks are mailed unattached with stringing kit and easy-to-follow instructions.)

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N.Y. state residents add .70¢ sales tax for course only. Sticks are prohibited by law in New York state and Canada. Not sold where prohibited by law.



# A FATHER'S WISH FOR HIS SON COMES TRUE

When Tiger Conway Jr. wrestles, one man watches with a heart overflowing with pride. No one blames Tiger Conway Sr. for rejoicing at his son's success!

PHOTOS BY GENE GORDON

**W**HILE THE CROWD roared its approval of Tiger Conway Jr.'s many and varied skills, one man sat quietly, though his chest swelled with pride. After all, the fans were cheering his son!

Tiger Conway has long been proud of his young son. As a child, he showed extraordinary physical coordination. He also was fascinated by his father's career as a professional wrestler. The lad followed his father to the arenas whenever possible and learned from Conway's many friends in the sport, as well as being taught for hours at a time by his father.

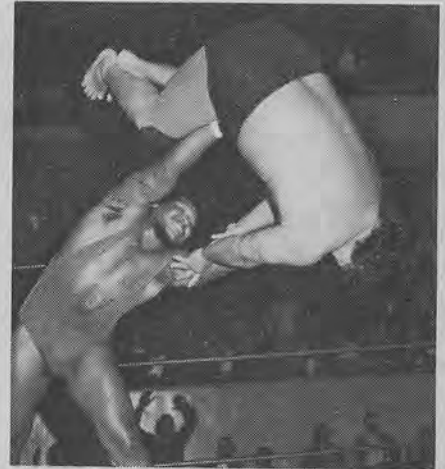
Today, Conway the elder can sit back and watch his son thrill spectators time and time again. And his pride in the talents of his son is written all over the grin on his face.

"There's nothing that makes a man happier," Conway admits, "than seeing his son follow in his footsteps. And when he becomes someone admired and respected in the field, then it's like having all your dreams come true.

"I never pushed Tiger into being a professional wrestler. What I did do was simply answer his questions and teach him what he asked me to teach him. I guess from the age of five, though, he never wanted to be anything but a professional wrestler. His mother wanted him to be a lawyer, but he decided to be just like his old man."

Tiger Conway is a very proud man. His son is respected and successful. What more can a proud parent ask? □

*Tiger Conway Jr. hurls Mr. Fugi across the ring (right) enroute to another victory. Each one makes his father, ex-wrestler Tiger Conway Sr. (below), more proud of his talented youngster.*





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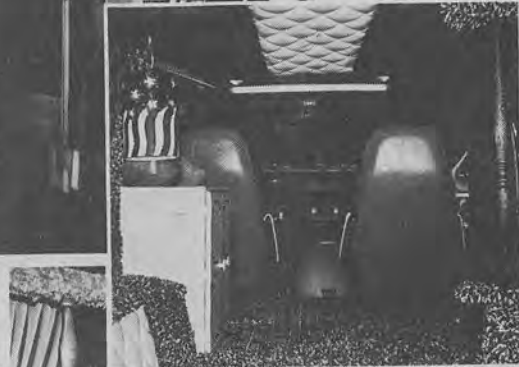
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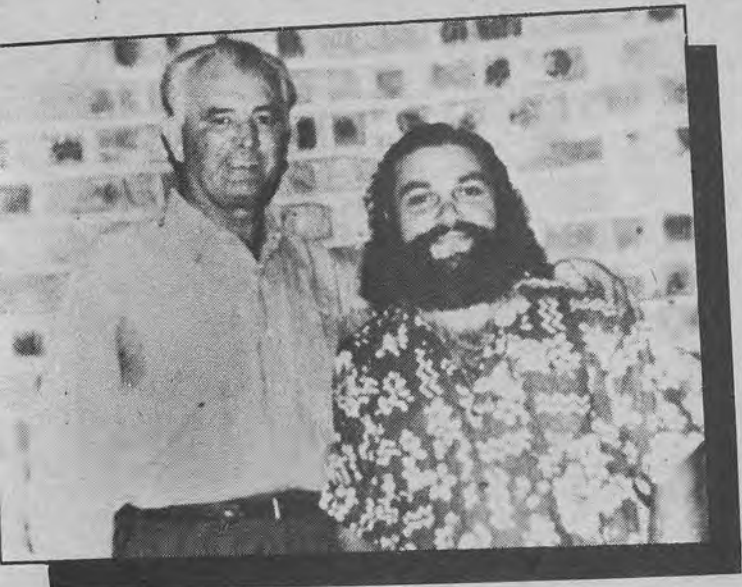
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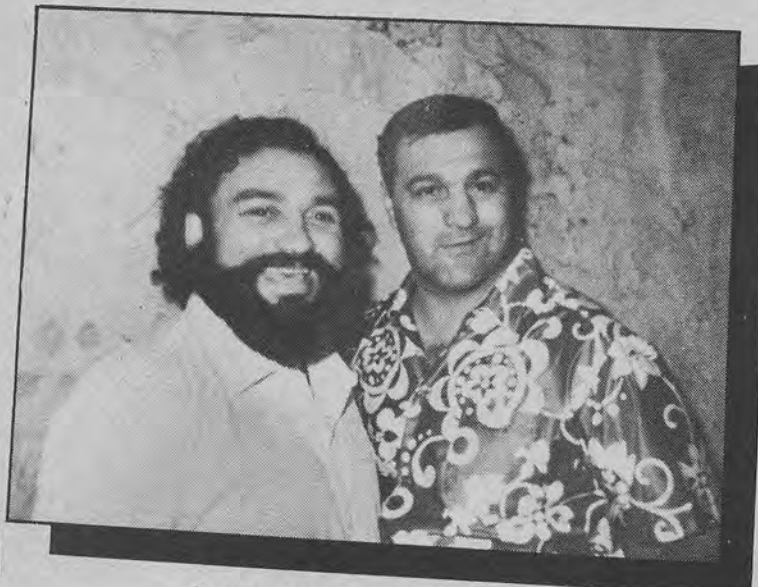
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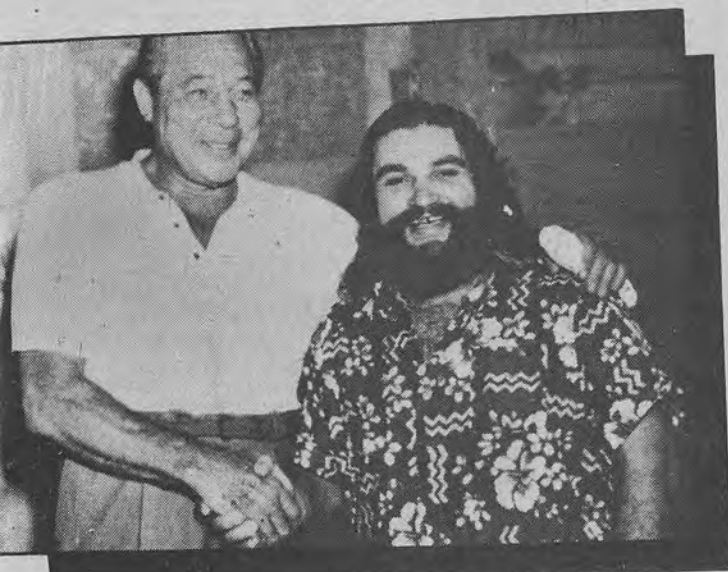


*Pampero with Jimmy Braddock.*

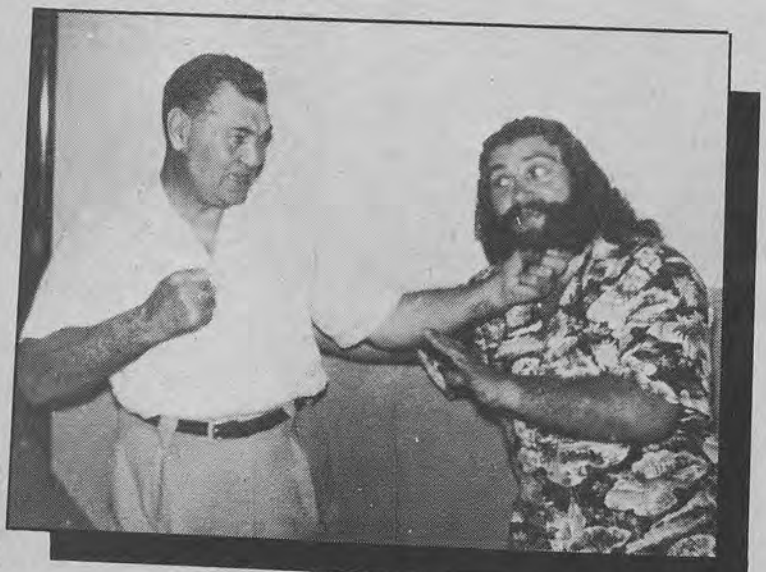


*Pampero with Rocky Marciano.*

**Pampero Firpo comes from a great boxing as well as wrestling family. Here are some exclusive shots Pampero wanted to share with you**



*Pampero with Max Baer.*



*Pampero with Jack Dempsey.*

# PAMPERO FIRPO



# "I CAN SHOW YOU EXACTLY HOW TO... GET A \$30000 RAISE TOMORROW!"

Have you resigned yourself to getting along on one modest raise a year? Then I'd like to tell you about an incredible, **foolproof** system for getting bigger raises more often. This system is so **powerful** I personally guarantee it'll get you the raise you want more than nine times out of ten!

This system has nothing to do with when you got your last raise, or whether you even deserve a raise. No, this is a whole new system for presenting yourself **with total command and assurance** — a system that is so absolutely convincing there is simply no way your boss can refuse you. He will literally feel **compelled** to give you a raise.

To show you how incredibly effective my system is all you have to do is look at me. I don't particularly like to talk about it, but ten years ago I was one of the biggest losers the world had ever seen. Shy, unaggressive, stuck in a job that paid a lousy eighty-five dollars a week. I wasn't bad at my work, but I was so quiet and unassertive hardly anyone in the company knew I existed. Then, almost by accident, I came across a whole new system for getting raises. A system that is so incredibly **dynamic** it instantly put me on the map with all of the people I worked for. The rest is history.

Today I earn over \$125,000 a year. During the last ten years I've had over 37 raises. That averages out to 3.7 raises a year. To be honest, some of them have been for as little as \$500. But most have been around \$2,000 and some have been for as much as \$10,000.

Now, at the age of thirty-three, I am a major stockholder and vice-president with one of America's largest and best-known communications corporations. I have several hundred thousand dollars in blue-chip investments and own a stable of fine cars including the beautiful antique Rolls Royce you see above.

The irony of all this is I'm not one bit smarter or more talented than any of the people I work with. (Some of them have done a lot more for the company than I have.) But while they've been inching along, often on less than one raise a year, I've been getting one big salary increase after another. Almost at the rate of **four times a year!** And now I'm going to show you exactly how you can do the same. I've turned my fool-proof raise-getting system into a special executive report called **HOW TO ASK FOR A RAISE AND GET IT!** This system is so easy to master you can put it to work for you the very same day you get it.

You don't have to be buddies with the boss. You don't have to be a company Super-star. You don't have to be special in any way. You simply walk into your supervisor's



**"Most people sit around hoping for more money. I can show you how to go in and get the raise you want now. I personally guarantee it!"**

office, follow the simple program laid out for you in your report, and you'll get the raise you want as easy as that. There is simply no way your boss can refuse you. What's more, this amazing raise-getting system will soon have your boss looking at you in a whole new light. No matter what your career has been like up until now, your boss will **instantly** begin thinking of you as a real go-getter, someone who is "going places" with the company.

If you want to start getting big, fat, juicy raises — up to three and four times a year — I suggest you reserve your copy of **HOW TO ASK FOR A RAISE AND GET IT** right now.

It costs only ten dollars (postage, handling, taxes included). And it comes with my personal guarantee that it'll help you get a substantial raise within thirty days of you're receiving it. If it doesn't, or if you're unhappy with it in any way (even if it's already helped you get a raise) just return it for a complete and immediate refund. No questions asked.

That's how absolutely certain I am this foolproof system will turn

you into an expert raise-getter, someone who decides exactly how much money they want to be making and then goes in and gets it. Remember, **HOW TO ASK FOR A RAISE AND GET IT** costs only ten dollars and it's fully guaranteed. So you have absolutely nothing to lose and literally thousands upon thousands of dollars to gain **IMMEDIATELY!** So send for **HOW TO ASK FOR A RAISE AND GET IT** today. And start making the kind of money you deserve.

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# IT'S YOUR CHOICE

## INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

This is perhaps the most revered honor in all of wrestling. This award is given to the man who overcomes the greatest odds in conquering some injury or personal affliction. It may also be given to the man who had to



LAST YEAR'S WINNER:  
MIKE McCORD

professionally overcome the greatest odds in achieving a goal. Valiant but unsuccessful efforts may be admired, but they are not included in the voting. Remember, "inspirational" is from the word "inspire;" the success should make others hopeful of conquering their own dilemma. One year, a crippled young lady wrote to say a wrestler's great victory over illness inspired her to continue with her own therapy. She ended the letter by assuring the world she would someday walk again. This award is given to the man or woman who overcomes almost impossible odds as they make their way to undeniable victory. A person need not have suffered the injury while wrestling. Mike McCord won last year for his remarkable recovery from injuries sustained in an airplane crash. Remember, even the bravest failure is still a failure; that's tragedy, and not inspirational. This award is the coupling of courage and success. This award is given to the most heroic man of the year. It is also given to a man who has enjoyed undeniable success. □



LAST YEAR'S WINNER:  
BRUNO SAMMARTINO  
VS. SPIROS ARION

## MATCH OF THE YEAR

This award is given to the most important, exciting match of the year. It need not have been a championship contest, but it must have taken place in a major arena in front of not less than 5,000 fans. It need not have had national media coverage. Any type of match is eligible between any number or combination of wrestlers. This is to be judged only on the match itself, not whether it settled a feud or caused a title change. The result is also immaterial. Preferably, it should show both wrestlers at their best. It is the best exhibition of wrestling greatness to be seen this year. If you wanted to convince someone how remarkable is the sport of wrestling, you should be able to use this match as unquestionable proof. Massacres and slaughters shouldn't be considered. Last



# VOTE FOR 1976's BEST ACHIEVEMENTS!

year, the winner was the classic battle between Spiros Arion and Bruno Sammartino, a match which thrilled over 24,000 people. The year before, the magnificent bout between then NWA king Jack Brisco and Dory Funk Jr. was justly honored. Any match considered must be of this high calibre. Of course, one can vote for a match not seen but read about. Personal victories by a wrestler, such as his defeating a hated rival, should not be a consideration. What happened before or after the match is of no consequence.

□



LAST YEAR'S WINNER: BRUNO SAMMARTINO VS. SPIROS ARION



LAST YEAR'S WINNER: GEORGE "CRYBABY" CANNON

## MANAGER OF THE YEAR

The person who has guided his or her wrestler or wrestlers to the year's greatest glory is the man who deserves this award. Again, questions of integrity and fair play should be ignored. What should be considered is the amount of improvement a wrestler enjoys under the manager's tutelage. The manager of the year should be a great teacher and strategist, making his wrestlers better than they ever were before. He should also be judged on how well he arranged and promoted significant matches. A

*(Continued on page 58)*

**It's time again to honor the top grapplers of the past year; the men and women who have made 1976 a great year for wrestling fans all over the world. It's up to you, the readers, to decide which stars will earn the sport's most coveted awards**

For Wrestling Fans  
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Hobbies, other interests \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Wrestler \_\_\_\_\_

I like ☐ Good Guys ☐ Bad Guys

What Kind of Person Would You Like

As Your Pen Pal \_\_\_\_\_

Will You Write to Pen Pals In Foreign

Lands \_\_\_\_\_

You Have My Permission To Print My  
Picture.

(Sign Your Name)



**ROBERT COLLETTI (11)**

147-37 71 Road  
Flushing, NY 11367  
Enjoys baseball  
Bruno Sammartino his  
favorite. Likes good  
guys. Boys for PP's.



**KEVIN TRICE (12)**

300 Lookout Avenue  
Hackensack, NJ 07601  
Likes football. Andre  
the Giant his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**VALARIE ELLEDGE (16)**

6615 Hillsboro  
Houston, TX 77020  
Enjoys skating.  
Alberto Madril her  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



**JOHNNY VICK (12)**

Route 1  
Vidalia, GA 30474  
Likes skating.  
Dusty Rhodes his  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



**VICKI MILLER (15)**

107 N. Emerald  
Nokomis, FL 33555  
Enjoys swimming.  
Tony Parisi her  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



**JOE GARRETT (11)**

Route 1  
Douglassville, TX 75560  
Collects coins. Mil  
Mascaras his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**JIMMY MILLS (13)**  
Route 6 Box 294  
Martinsville, VA 24112  
Enjoys bowling. Dusty  
Rhodes his favorite.  
Likes good and bad  
guys. Anyone for PP's.



**DAVID SMOTHERS (14)**  
P. O. Box 103  
Oakman, AL 35579  
Likes football. Mil  
Mascaras his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Girls for PP's.



**SONIA WYNN (10)**  
3703 Broadmor Road  
Huntsville, AL 35810  
Enjoys skating. Mr.  
Wrestling II her  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



**LINDA TALMADGE (12)**

8835 23 Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11214  
Enjoys swimming.  
Mighty Igor her  
favorite. Likes  
good and bad guys.  
Boys for pen pals.



**JOSEPH LA MAGNA (12)**

1544 James Road  
Wantagh, NY 11793  
Collects coins. Bugsy  
McGraw his favorite.  
Likes bad guys. Girls  
for pen pals.



**RICK KYLE (12)**

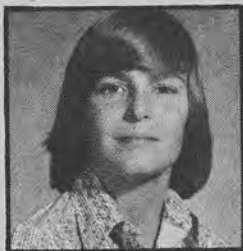
228 Balmoral  
Porterville, CA 93257  
Likes sports. Louie  
Tillet his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Girls for pen pals.



# N PALS



**ANDREW PARASILITI (12)**  
315 Diane Drive  
S. Windsor, CT 06074  
Likes reading. Jay  
Strongbow his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**BILLY NEMSER (14)**  
2550 N.E. 51 Street  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308  
Enjoys photography. Bob  
Roope his favorite. Likes  
bad guys. Girls for PP's.



**DAVID BLOCK (12)**  
444 Rockland Ave.  
Merion, PA 19066  
Likes roller derby.  
Billy Graham his  
favorite. Likes bad  
guys. Anyone for PP's.



**BETTY MERRITT (16)**  
Rt. 1 Box 50  
Myrtle, MS 38650  
Collects magazines.  
Jerry Lawler her  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



**MARC GLASER (14)**  
10281 W. Bay Harbor Dr.  
Miami Beach, FL 33154  
Collects photos. Dusty  
Rhodes his favorite.  
Likes good and bad  
guys. Anyone for PP's.



**SCOTT STAUFFER (14)**  
324 Playground Drive  
W. Reading, PA 19611  
Likes sports. Bugsy  
McGraw his favorite.  
Likes bad guys.  
Anyone for PP's.



**VICKIE NEWMAN (16)**  
RD 1 Box 20  
Laceyville, PA 18623  
Enjoys music. Jay  
Strongbow her  
favorite. Likes good  
guys. Anyone for PP's.



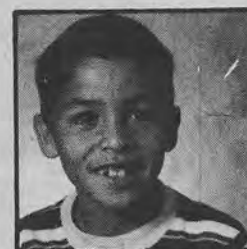
**WAYNE HALL (15)**  
Rt. 5 Box 173  
Reidsville, NC 27320  
Likes sports. Mighty  
Igor his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Girls for PP's.



**GENE BOWERS (24)**  
1801 Sun Hill Road  
Cleveland, TN 37311  
Enjoys music. Jack  
Brisco his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Girls for PP's.



**MADELINE LUGO (15)**  
514 Church Street  
Medina, NY 14103  
Likes archery.  
Pedro Morales her  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



**ROSENDO MAGANA (9)**  
1004 Encino Drive  
Mathis, TX 78368  
Likes soccer. Jose  
Lothario his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for PP's.



**JIMMY LEASE (12)**  
35 Morningside Drive  
Old Bridge, NJ 08857  
Enjoys football.  
Bruno Sammartino his  
favorite. Likes good  
guys. Anyone for PP's.



**CONNIE WATSON (18)**  
4138 Kozar Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38108  
Likes books. Bob  
Armstrong her  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Anyone  
for pen pals.



**JIM GLEWWE (22)**  
3254 Harriet Ave. So.  
Minneapolis, MN 55408  
Likes sports. Verne  
Gagne his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**JEFF SCHOOWITZ (14)**  
5624 Farragut  
Brooklyn, NY 11234  
Likes baseball. Dino  
Bravo his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**JEANNE LANDRY (15)**  
76 Hollywood Box 367  
Smooth Rock Falls, Canada  
Likes swimming. Jean  
Ferre her favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for PP's.



**DARRAH HARRIS (9)**  
22 Park Avenue  
Brevard, NC 28712  
Likes dancing.  
Paul Jones her  
favorite. Likes  
good and bad guys.  
Girls for PP's.



**PHIL LAWRENCE (14)**  
4120 Auburn  
Memphis, TN 38116  
Enjoys swimming.  
Jerry Lawler his  
favorite. Likes  
good guys. Girls  
for pen pals.



**STEVE DI GIACCO (14)**  
1509 41 Street  
North Bergen, NJ 07047  
Likes racing. Ivan  
Putski his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Girls for pen pals.



**JOHN LO GERFO (14)**  
200 W. Hamilton Ave.  
Campbell, CA 95008  
Likes football. Pat  
Patterson his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



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MAY/68

OCT/71

# BACK ISSUES OF THE WRESTLER



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AUG/72



SEPT/72



OCT/72



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MAR/73



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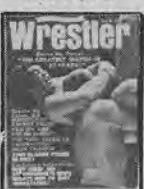
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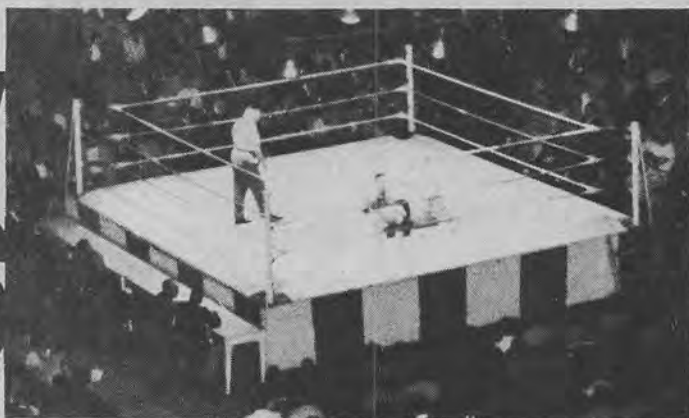
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# SINCERELY YOURS



*A miscalculation on Mil Mascaras' part forces him to become a victim of Ernie Ladd's boot. Although Mil is the ultimate professional, he only rates a 9.0 in intelligence. Stat-O-Chart experts feel Mil does make a few mistakes that sometimes cause him to come near losing.*

## MARVELOUS MIL

Although I admire Mil Mascaras, he does make some mistakes in the ring which cause him a fall periodically. That's why I realize you had to give him a 9.0 in intelligence. Mil can and will improve in this category. There is one category you left out, "heart". And if you rated Mil in that category he'd no doubt get a 10.0!

SUSAN GORMER  
Albuquerque, N.M.

## STAT-O-MARINO

Tony Marino is my favorite wrestler. I'm glad you didn't leave him out of your great Stat-O-Chart system. I would give Tony a 10.0 in every category, but I guess I'm partial. To be honest, looking at the chart, objectively, you did one hell of a great job. Beside the chart rating, his fact sheet was very accurate. Bring Tony back to my area and bring the Stat-O-Charts back on a regular basis!

NANCY ENDALA  
Toronto, Ontario

## TELLIN' IT IN TEXAN

Alberto Madrill is a young, upcoming wrestler. He has his good points, which your Stat-O-Chart pointed out. But he is also weak in some areas. I'm glad you guys did not hide his bad spots. You point out that he deserves a 7.5 in finishing maneuvers. I totally agree. He could use a few more good windup holds.

Your Stat-O-Chart system rates wrestlers the same way my mind does. They are totally accurate. I'm sure the fans will look at them as I did—as a totally authoritative bible of true wrestling rankings.

ROY JENKINS  
Houston, Texas

## A MATTER OF POWER

I totally agree with your rating Superstar Billy Graham and Bruno Sammartino equal in strength with a 10.0. I saw their classic confrontations and it was rare when either one had an upperhand. I might have rated Ivan Koloff with a 10.0 rather than a

9.5, but who am I to argue with the experts. You guys did a sensational job and I can't wait to see the Stat-O-Chart updated year after year.

MIKE SEGRAN  
Bronx, New York

## BOOSTING BROWER

I hate Bulldog Brower. But I think you did the right thing when you gave him a 9.0 in strength. Although he doesn't rate up there with Bruno Sammartino and Superstar Graham, many people underestimate his strength. He's got brute power and it helps him win many of his matches. This letter does not make me like him any better—that's something I don't think I can ever do. But I do like to give credit where credit is due, and I see you people believe in that too.

ANDY JORDON  
Freeport, New York

## FAR OUT!

After reading Wrestling Annual #16, I just had to write and tell how great I thought your Stat-O-Charts were. You have devised one of the best methods I have ever seen for objectively rating the abilities of all wrestlers. You are to be congratulated.

I especially liked your ratings of Mil Mascaras, a man I consider to be the finest this sport has to offer. He definitely deserved the high ratings you gave him. Your magazines, more than any others, have given Mil the kind of attention he deserves. Thank you very much.

DAVID SCHELLENBERGER  
Teaneck, N.J.

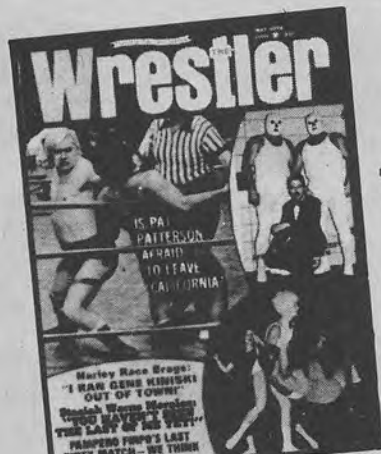
## OF COURSE

Leave it to Wrestling Annual to come up with the greatest innovation in wrestling yet. I'm talking about your Stat-O-Charts, one of the best ideas I have ever seen for rating wrestlers.

I have only one complaint—I wish  
(Continued on page 52)



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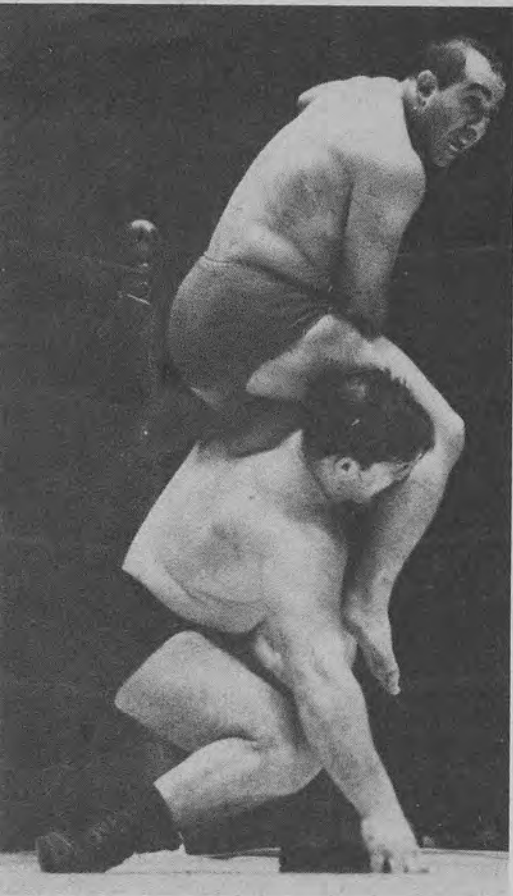
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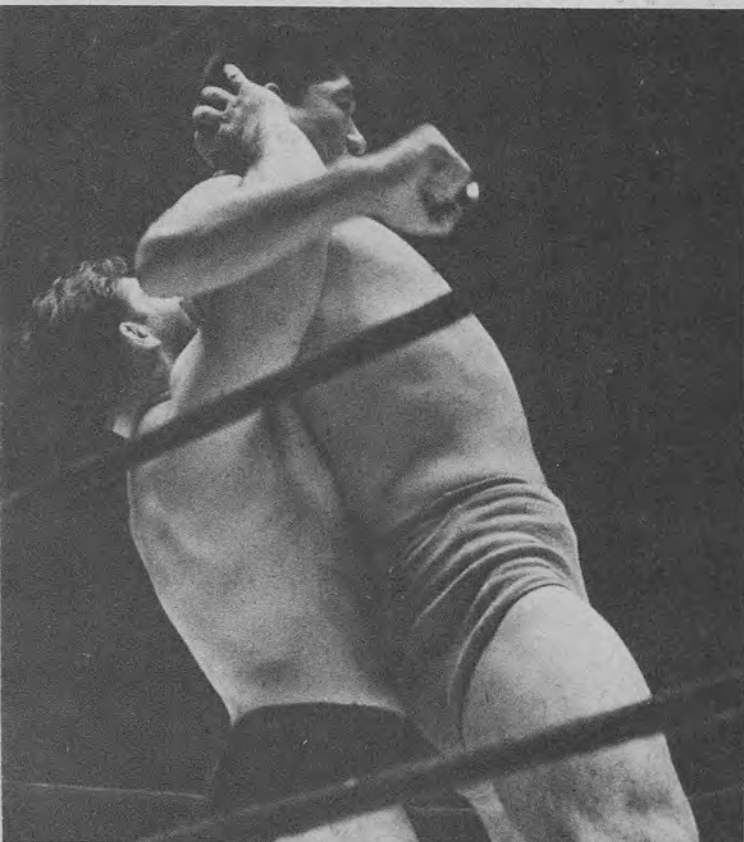
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*Argentina Zuma tries to ride Bruno in one of Sammartino's earliest matches at the old Madison Square Garden (left). Zuma zoomed through the air as Bruno's tremendous strength sent the barefoot man flying! Although both wrestlers were known for scientific tactics, the two had a red-hot feud that lasted many months.*

# THE BEST MATCHES IN BRUNO SAMMARTINO'S CAREER



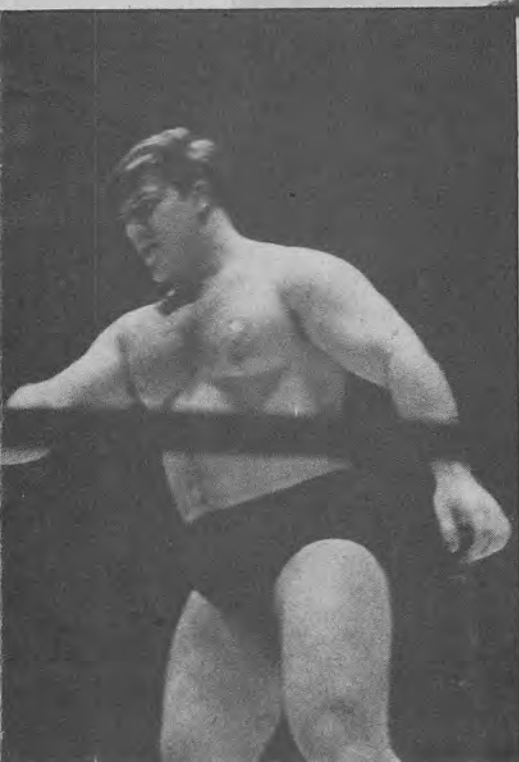
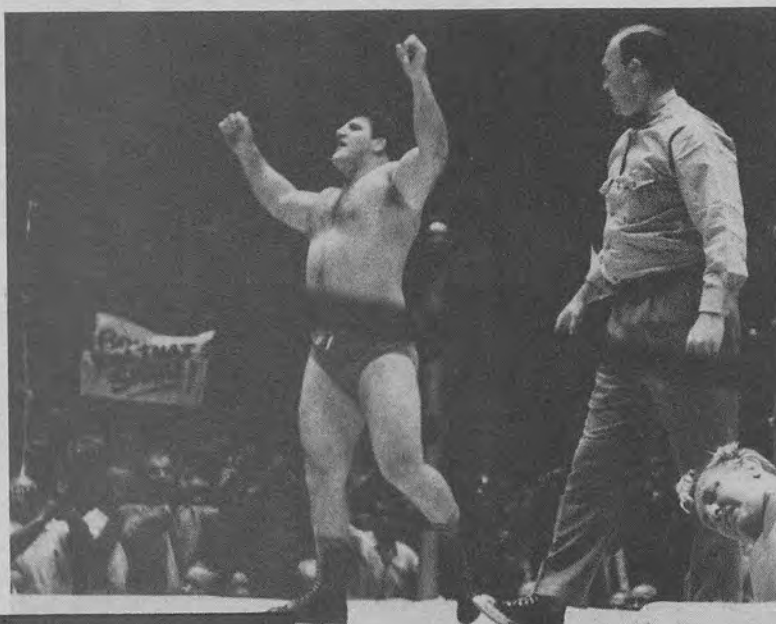
*In January '62, Bruno became the first to chop down the Japanese giant, Baba. Baba can't bust Bruno's full nelson (left). His power outshined them all. A friendly handshake after a match that made history (right)—Bruno wrestled Haystacks Calhoun and lifted Haystack's 601 pound body off the canvas! Fans today still talk about this feat.*







*Brawling has never been much of a problem for Bruno as vicious Bulldog Brower learns (left) in this 1962 Toronto clash. Killer Austin cringes in pain (below) as Bruno locks him up—also a 1962 battle. Bruno struts around the ring in ecstasy (below) while Buddy Rogers experiences agony. He just lost the WWWF title to Bruno in 48 seconds—on May 17, 1963.*



**Here's the feature wrestling fans have begged for. Finally, in one collection, are award-winning photos of Bruno Sammartino's top matches. All the greats are here as Sammartino battled his way from awkward strong man to living legend!**



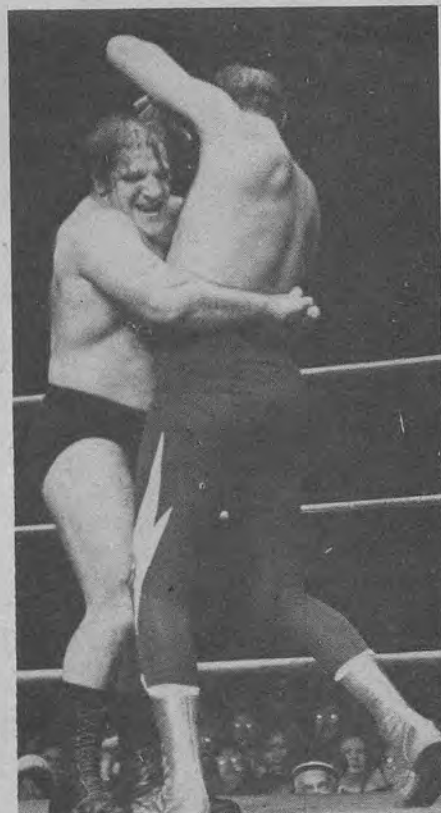
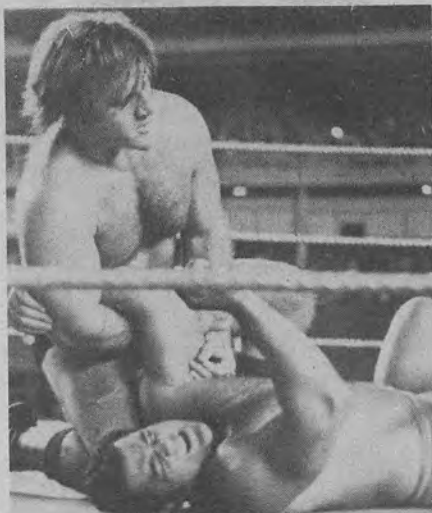
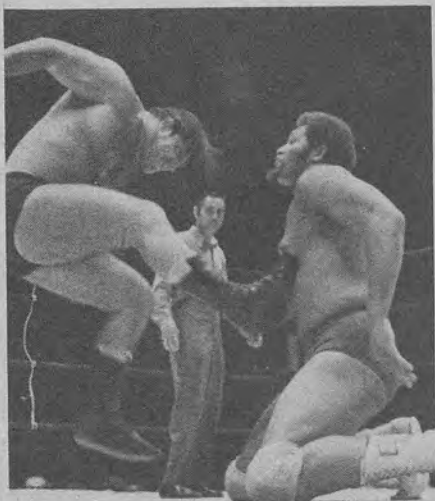
*For 90 minutes Bruno and Gorilla Monsoon battle in a titanic match (above). To this day, Bruno considers this contest one of his roughest. Although he feuded with Monsoon back in the '60s, they are now very close friends. Who can forget the matches Bruno had against Dr. Jerry Graham (right)? They were some of the most brutal and exciting bouts in the history of wrestling.*



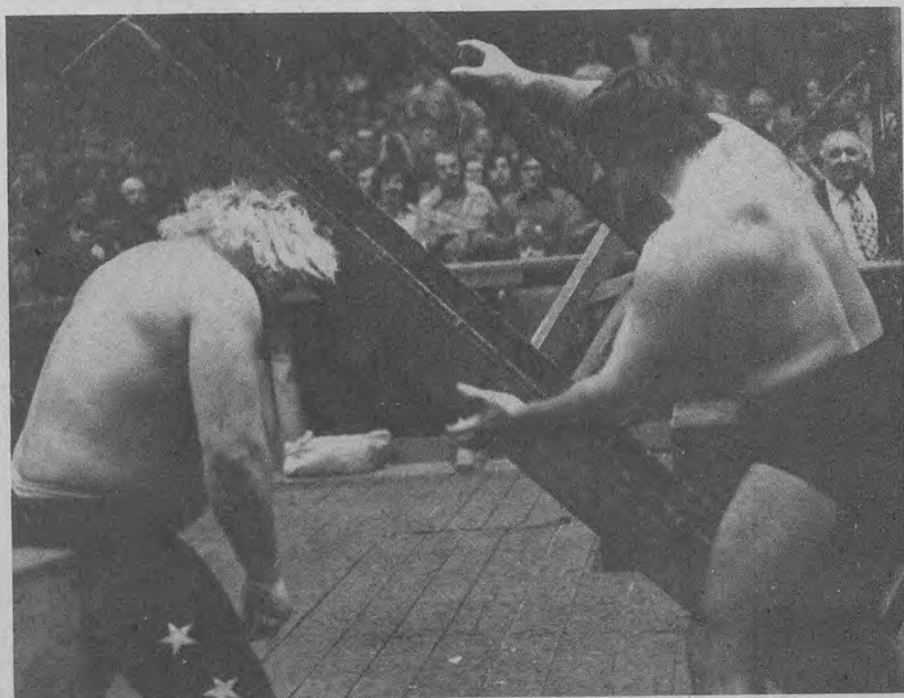
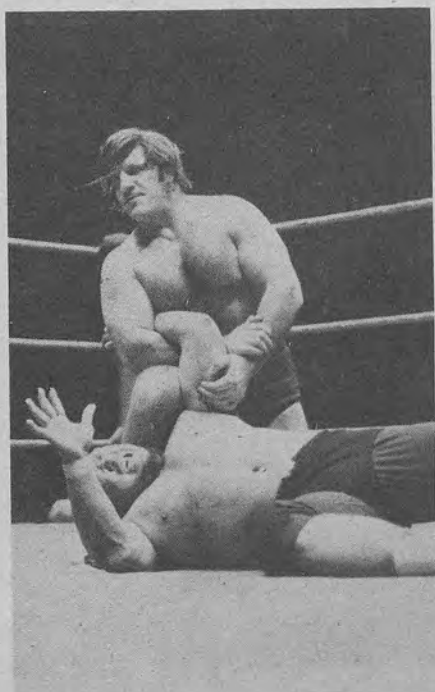
*Former NWA king Gene Kiniski is about to hit the deck, courtesy of a Sammartino bodyslam (above). In the background is Cowboy Bill Watts, a man who'll eventually doublecross Bruno and begin a big feud with him. Kiniski's partner is German terror Waldo Von Erich. Another German who gave Bruno much trouble is Baron Von Raschke. Bruno gives him a taste of his own medicine (right) as the Baron rebounds off the ropes and gets booted by the eager champion.*

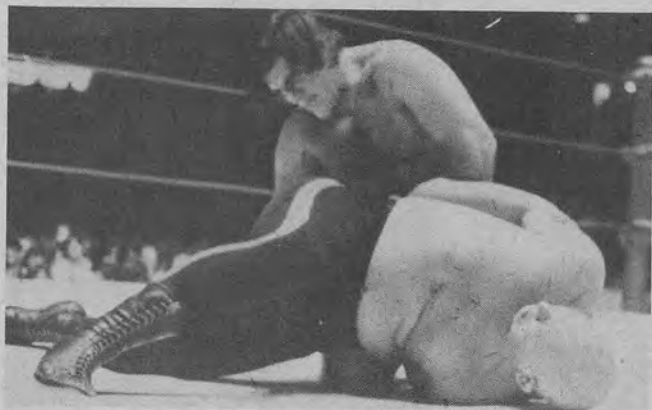




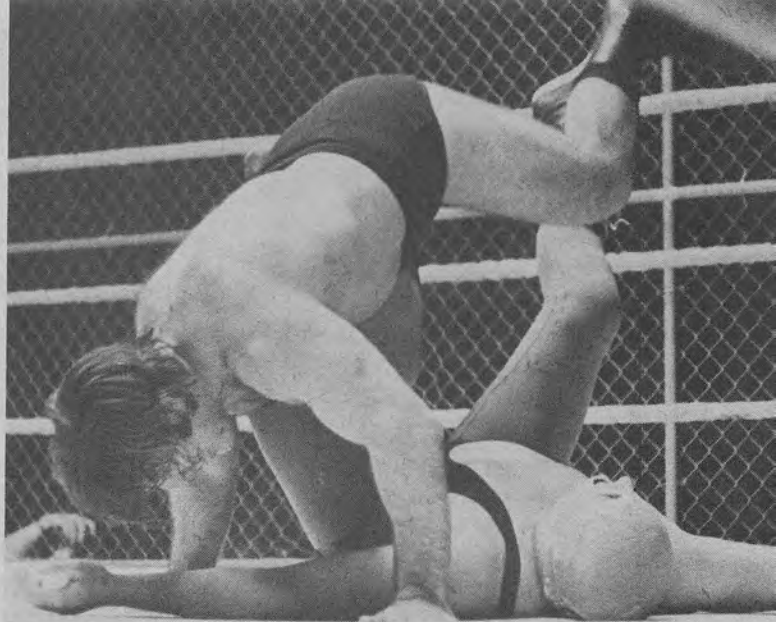


*Bruno stomps Ernie Ladd, one of his most hated rivals (top left). What his fans consider his most classic match (above center)—the scientific bout against Pedro Morales at New York's Shea Stadium in September '72. Killer Kowalski becomes a victim of Bruno's bear-hug (above) in Los Angeles. The Sheik gets a battering (left). It's Bruno armlocking Professor Tanaka (below left) and turning into a brawler in a Boston clash against Moondog Mayne (below).*

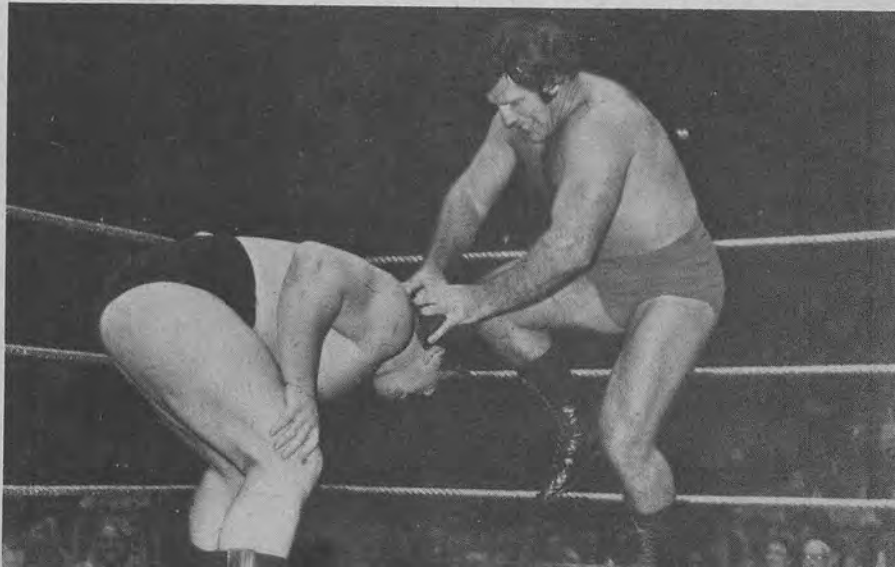




*In a steel cage match (right) Bruno is locked in against The Invader. This match took place during one of Bruno's rare visits to St. Louis, Missouri, on April 27, 1973. In his hometown—Pittsburgh—Bruno had several matches against Baron Von Raschke (above). Bruno credits Von Raschke as being "one of the meanest and most clever rulebreakers I've ever had to wrestle."*



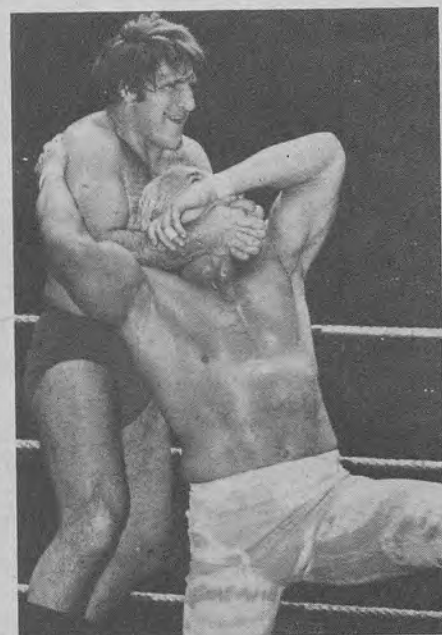
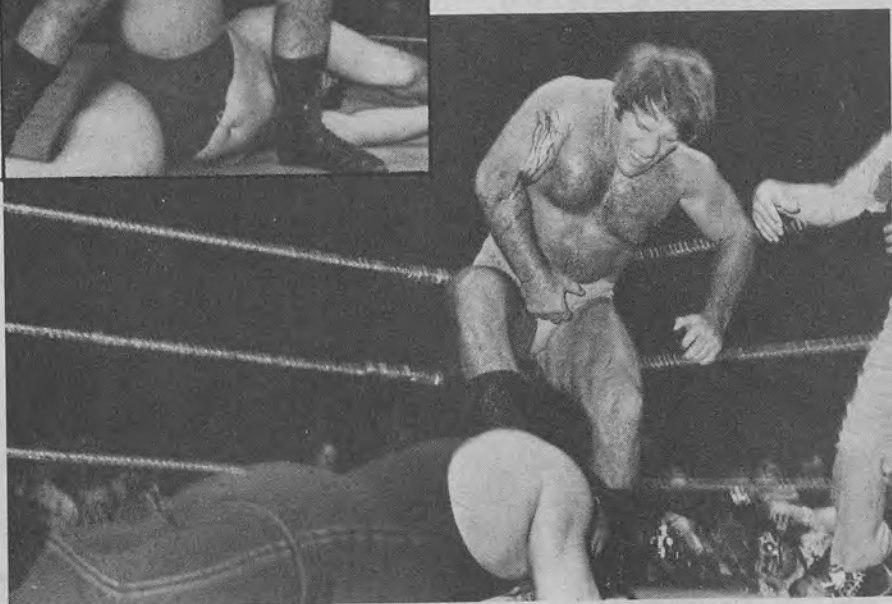
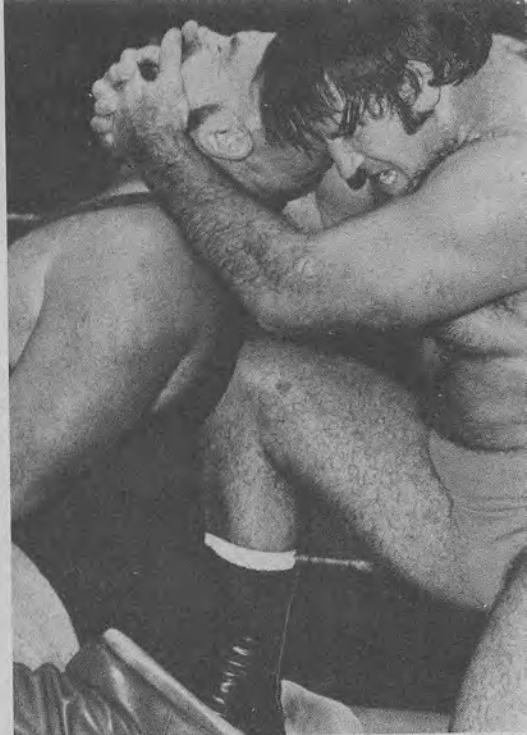
*Bruno wins the WWWF title for a second time as he whips Stan "The Man" Stasiak (above left) after Stasiak won the title from Pedro Morales. Taking a crack at the NWA belt, Bruno backdrops then champion Harley Race (above right). The time limit saved the title for Race. Mr. Fugli's plans go up in smoke as Bruno turns Fugli's flying body press into a flying slam (left)! Nikolai Volkoff samples Bruno's flying knee (below) in this July 1974 confrontation.*



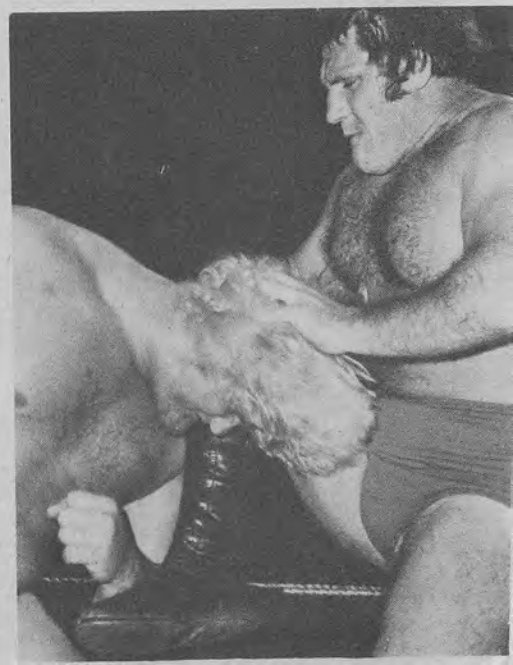




*In his bitter feud against Spiros Arion—one encompassing many hard bouts—Bruno finally took Arion and showed him what it's like to be a Sammartino victim (left). Waldo Von Erich sliced Bruno's right arm to shreds, but the game WWWF king kicked his way to a victory (below). A chinlock is making life miserable for Ivan Koloff (right). Koloff, the man who won Bruno's title in 1971, tried to regain the belt, but has thus far always been foiled.*



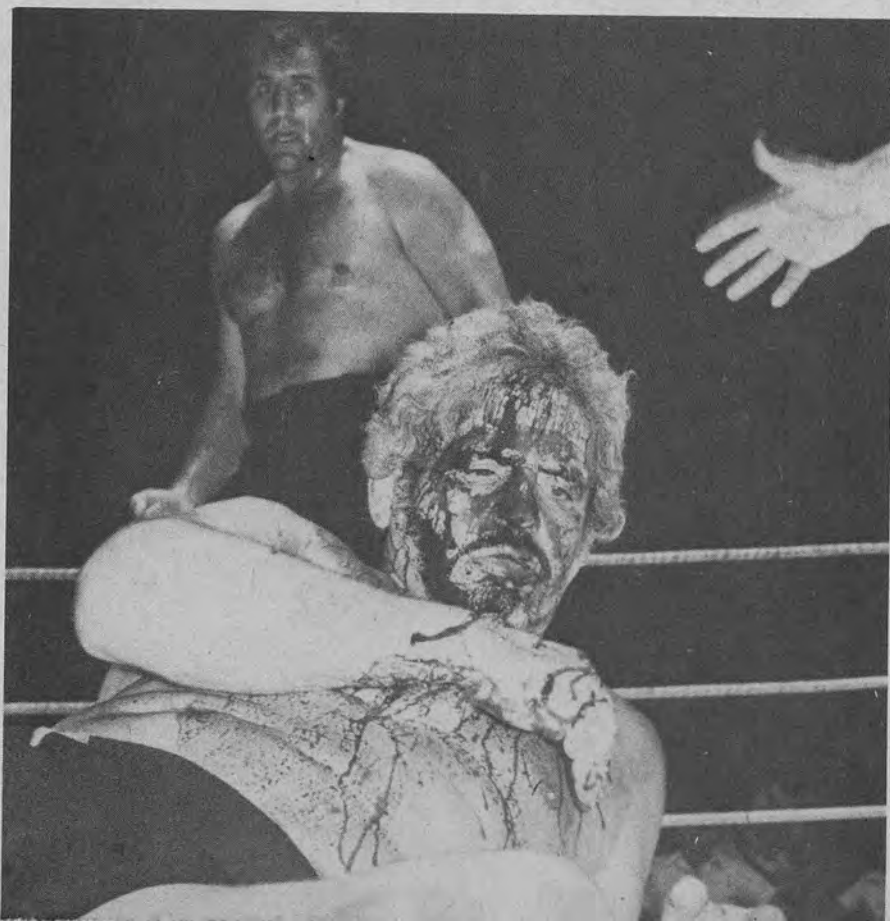
*After his neck was broken by Stan Hansen, Bruno spent two months recuperating and hoping to make a comeback. He did—and got even with Hansen (above) at New York's Shea Stadium. The challenge of Superstar Graham calls Sammartino. Bruno wrestled Graham several times and lost some bouts on technical decisions. But the champion won the majority of their matches (above right). Bobby Duncum was rougher than most gave him credit for. But Bruno whipped him (right).*





*Against Sheik, Dom thinks it's a good idea to use a belt as a weapon (above). Most grapplers would agree with him! And almost every wrestler in the world would like to see Sheik on the mat bloody and battered (below). A new feud is now born!*

# THE MAN WHO MADE THE SHEIK BACK DOWN



**W**HEN CAIN, after slaying Abel, responded to the Lord's question about his brother's whereabouts by saying, "Am I my brother's keeper?" the Lord said nothing. It's a question each man must answer for himself and in his own way.

The phrase, "wrestling community," is very well chosen. The men who earn their living grappling know they depend upon each other for so much. Each man is a representative of the community. A good exhibition reflects well on everyone. A bad match smears them all. If one title falls into disrespect, all titles are diminished. Wrestlers have long ago realized they are indeed their brother's keeper. For them, there is no choice.

Dominic DeNucci has long known his responsibility to wrestling. The dignity of the sport is more important to him than any personal honor. He considers it noble to sacrifice his life for the sport.

In contrast, Sheik would think



**Dominic DeNucci wanted to make sure he was ready for Sheik before confronting the notorious Arab in combat. However, Dom didn't count on having to save a man from being slaughtered!**

nothing of sacrificing the sport for himself. A man who knows no dignity, Sheik tortures with glee and delight. As long as he's paid for his savagery, Sheik thinks of nothing else. He has no other considerations. Caring about something more than self is an incomprehensible concept to this man.

When Dominic DeNucci journeyed to Detroit, he knew there would

be an inevitable confrontation with Sheik. The two men were being drawn together like the opposite poles of a magnet. DeNucci didn't know, however, it would be so soon—or so violent.

Before Dominic even considered meeting Sheik in combat, he decided to view his hated foe in action. DeNucci wanted to see if Sheik was using any new tricks—or had de-

veloped some new vulnerabilities—since the last time the two had met.

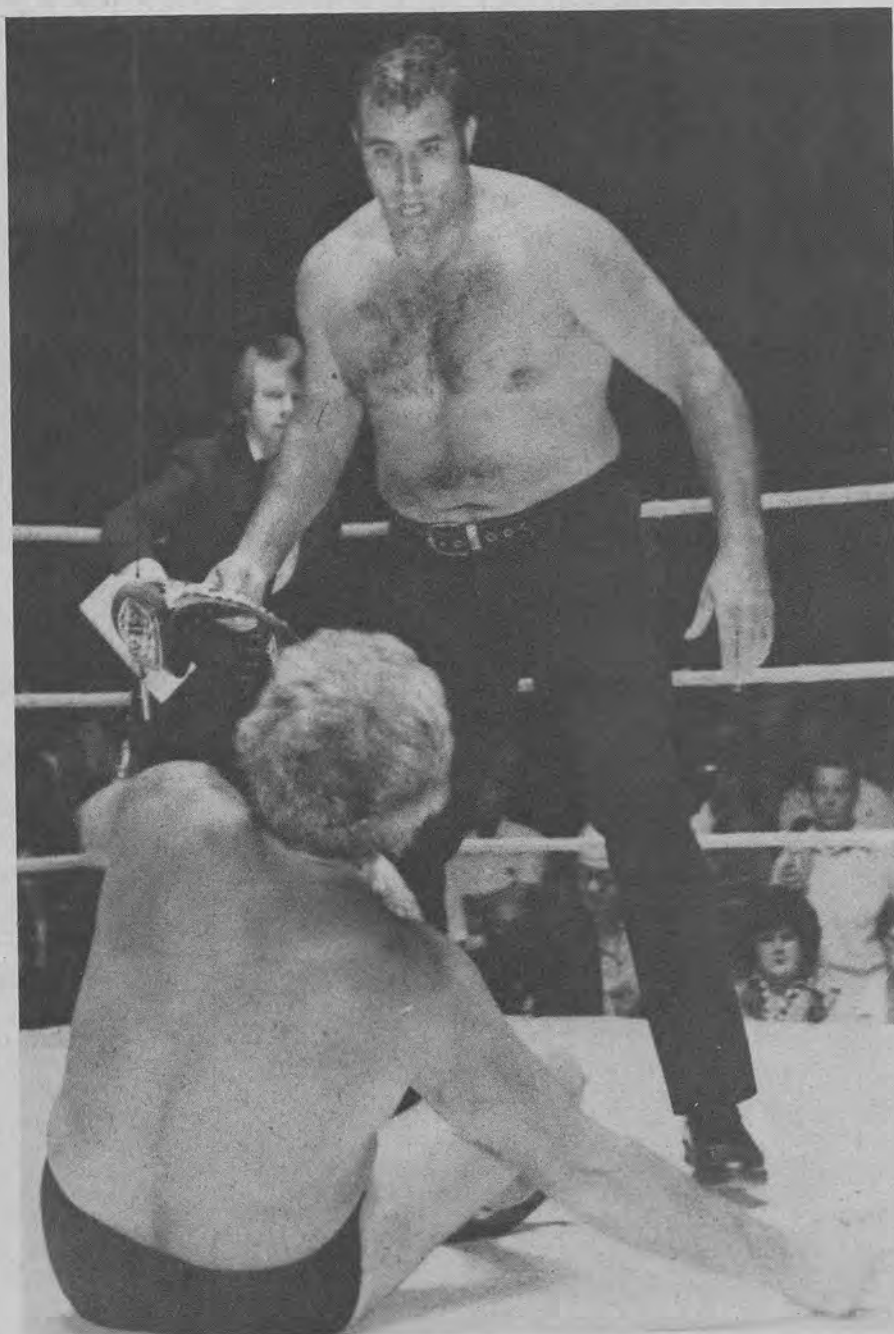
Dom was one of the first men in the arena that night. Fans came over to him when they recognized the grappler among them. Many had questions for the personable mat star.

"When are you going to wrestle Sheik?" was the most frequently one asked.

"As soon as I'm sure of myself," Dom invariably replied, "which will be fairly soon. Most guys rush into the area and immediately challenge the guy. That's insane. When courage exceeds brains, you're in trouble. I want to study Sheik, know his weaknesses and strengths. When I get in with him, he'll want to get out as soon as possible. I'm taking no chances. Sheik won't get the better of me, like he does against so many other guys."

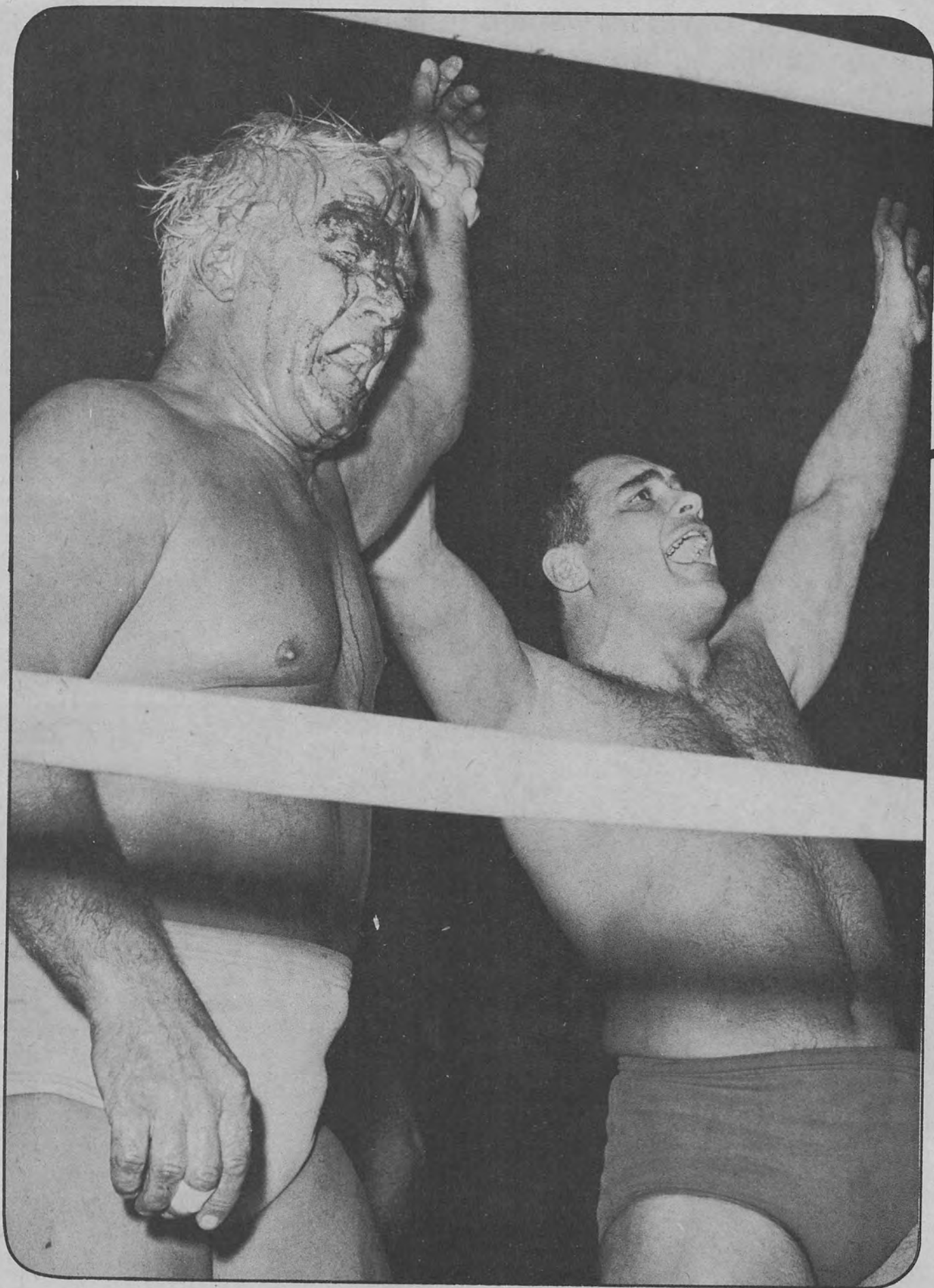
The fans didn't need to be remind-

*(Continued on page 50)*



*Left: Dom stands over Sheik after the Arab was forced to release his helpless victim.*

*Above: DeNucci grabs the ring microphone and challenges the despised grappler to a match at the earliest possible date.*





# WHEN JOHN TOLOS AND FREDDIE BLASSIE WERE FRIENDS!

Photos By Theo Ehret



*At one time, John Tolos and Freddie Blassie were best of tag team partners and friends (opposite page). As this recent cage match shows (above), they are now very bitter enemies.*

**F**RED BLASSIE AND John Tolos friends?

That makes as much sense as someone telling you that adding one and one equals three.

But as little sense as that first bit of information seems to make, it really was true. At one time Blassie and Tolos, now bitterest of enemies, were friends.

There was nothing Fred and John wouldn't do for each other. They were united in their goal of wiping out men like Mil Mascaras, Prince Maivia and other fan favorites.

"John Tolos," Fred Blassie said during their friendly days, "is the greatest partner anyone could have. He's got more guts than anyone. I'd say almost as much as me. And what I like even more, is that Tolos is a hungry, bloodthirsty animal, just like me. That's the way I like my partners."

Tolos was equally kind when he spoke of Blassie.

"The Golden Greek proclaims that Mr. Fred Blassie is the best partner I could have chosen to help me get rid of the garbage men. What a good laugh Blassie and I get when we see Mascaras and his kind. They actually think they're wrestlers! That's the funniest thing we've ever heard. Me and Fred, we're inseperable!"

Together, as a team, they refused to accept single matches. In only a few weeks they became the top contenders for the Americas' title. That was the time Blassie and Tolos would unknowingly get into hassle. A big hassle.

Just a few days before their title match, Blassie was offered a shot at The Sheik's United States championship.

"You can't go into that match!" Tolos exclaimed when Fred told him of the news. Fred's reaction was that of a very disappointed man. Had Tolos gotten the title shot, Blassie claims, "I would have been happy for him. I wouldn't have held him back."

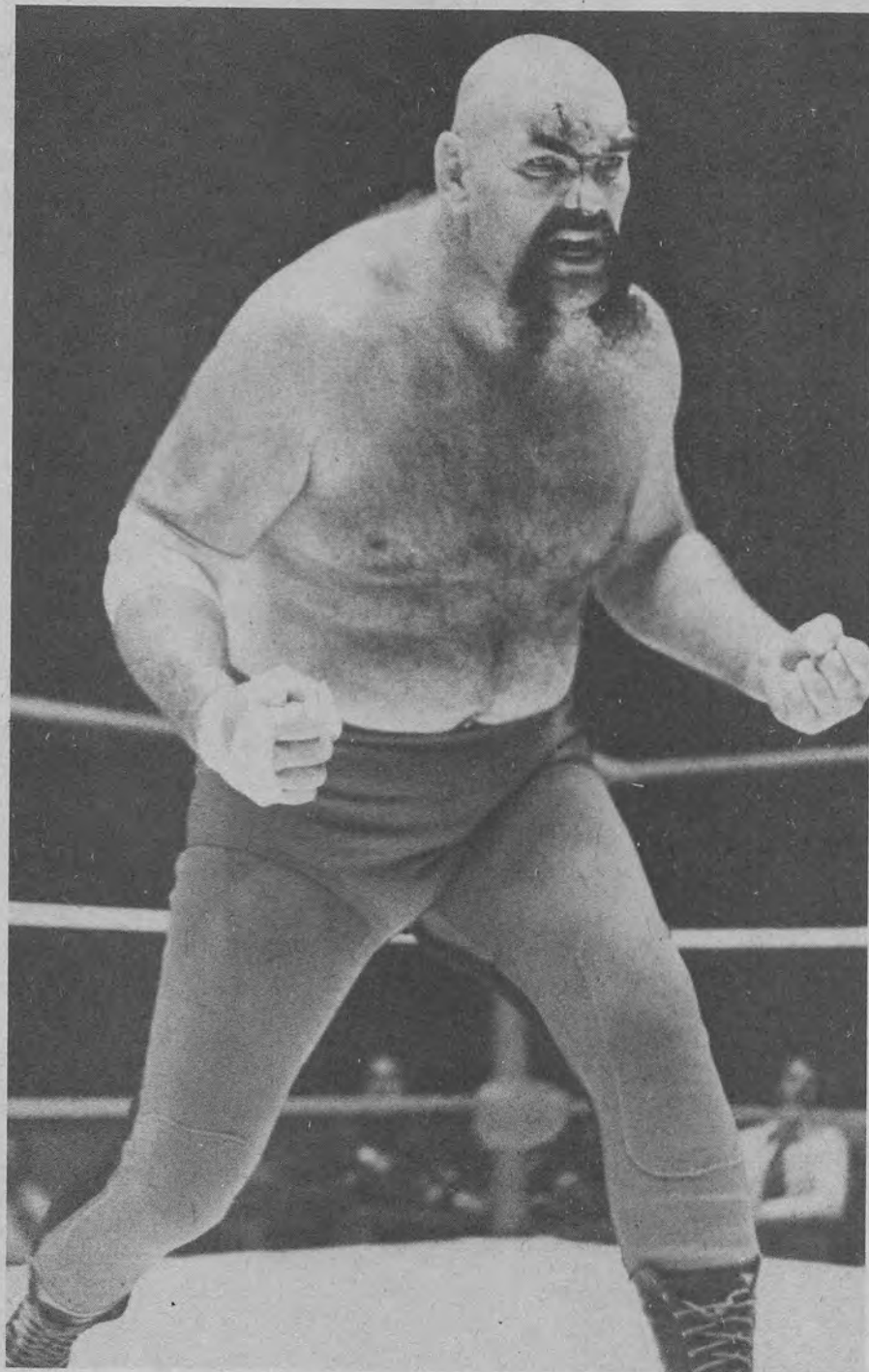
They argued endlessly.

*(Continued on page 54)*

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**They started out as friends. Then, a shocking series of events unfolded that made Fred Blassie and John Tolos try to kill each other. Now neither will rest until one of them does indeed destroy the other!**

---



*Blood dripping down his bald scalp, Ox Baker dares his foe to continue attacking (left). The reckless grappler doesn't seem to notice the fans' cries. Yet he hears every condemning yell!*

BY DR. MANFRED E. WILSON, PhD.

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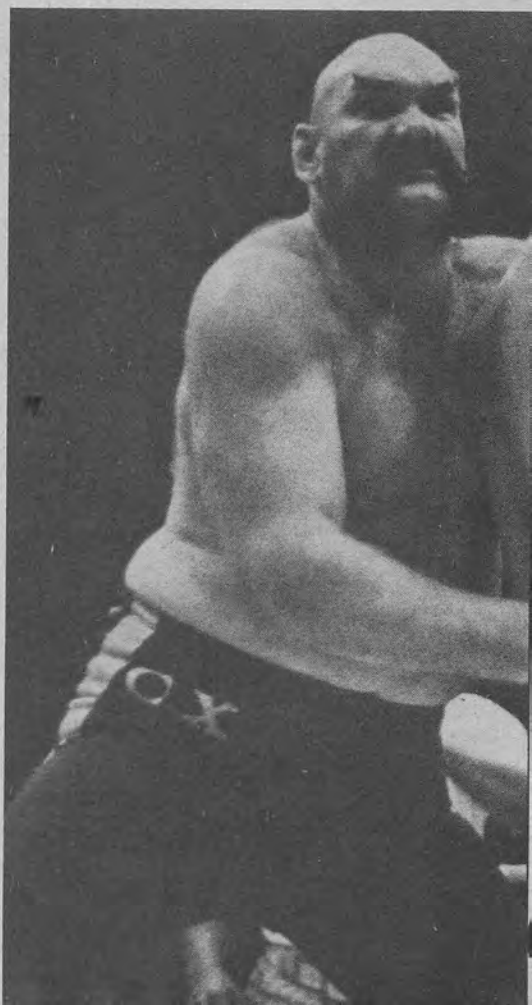
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**Most fans despise Ox Baker and his reprehensible tactics. Dr. Manfred E. Wilson, a leading psychologist and wrestling fan, tells us Baker's savagery is beyond his control—and the fault of the fans!**

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**E**VEN THE STRONGEST man may be overpowered by fate. Circumstances may conspire to twist a man's mind, hopelessly confusing right from wrong. Environmental psychologists have done exhaustive work in this area.

We must look to their research for

an analysis of Ox Baker. This depised athlete was driven into an emotional corner by two accidents and has been fighting from that psychological position ever since.

The two occurrences which scarred Baker for life are the deaths of two opponents in the ring. Baker had

already earned a reputation for ruthlessness before these deaths, but he showed no signs of his present extreme viciousness. This condition has to be traced to the two unfortunate deaths, possibly at the hands of Baker.

After the first man died in a bout against Ox, most people were willing to dismiss it as a tragic accident, which all reports say is the truth of the matter. An autopsy revealed the man had suffered a blood clot in the brain. Therefore, any extensive exercise would have caused death. There is no way Baker could be blamed. However, fans were a bit put off at the callous way Baker refused to mourn for his fallen comrade.

Baker's refusal to mourn may not have been due to his hard heart. In fact, it may be just the opposite. Afraid to show the depth of his sorrow, Baker might have masked his despair as callousness. It's a common psychological ploy, acting the opposite of your real emotions.

However, the second death, following less than a year after the first, may have permanently crippled Baker's mind. The fans began to shriek, "MURDERER! MURDERER!" at the grappler. Again the autopsy revealed Baker could not be blamed for the tragedy. A heart condition, not treated in time, was the killer—not Baker.

Baker knew this, but he couldn't convince the fans of his innocence. There is a report that Baker tried to reason with a crowd before a match shortly after his opponent died. The reporter claimed Baker pleaded with the fans to understand him. They ignored the entreaties of the man they deemed a murderer. It is the first and last reported instance of Baker asking for understanding.

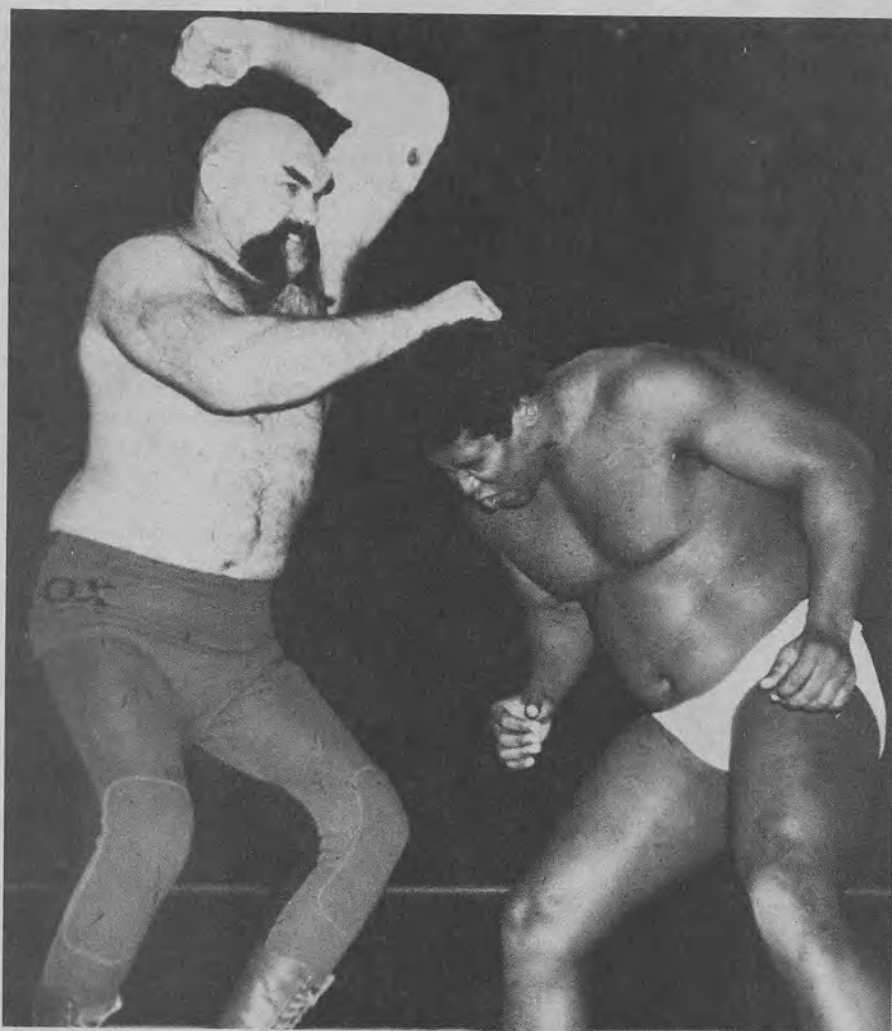
There are widespread reports, however, of Baker proudly proclaiming his slaughtering of two lives. He brags he has killed two men in the ring and he's looking for a third. He seems to glory in the fans' hatred. By this time, his joy may be genuine. Deranged, but genuine.

Baker may be the psychological product of the wrestling fans. They deemed him a killer and he couldn't change their opinion. Striking back at them, he became worse than they expected. If they conceived of him as an unfeeling killer, he'd pretend to want to be a mass murderer. He dared them to think he was worse than he pretended to be. If they hated him, he'd hate them worse!

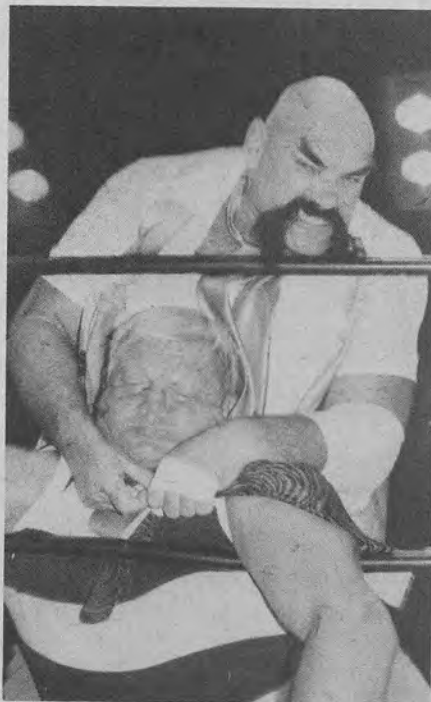
# BAKER: THE UNDERSTOOD KILLER



*Left: Baker thinks nothing is wrong with choking Verne Gagne and pulling the man's trunks. Above: Hans Schmidt grits his teeth as Baker chokes the man cruelly and without the least sense of mercy toward another.*



*Above: Like a savage marauder, Baker gleefully smashes his elbow down on the head of Ted Herbert. The victim was seeing double for many days after Baker continually pounded away at the helpless man. Below left: Hans Schmidt grabs Baker by the moustache, much to the delight of the fans. Neither Schmidt nor the fans guess what harm they're doing to Baker's mind. Below right: Baker uses a necktie to choke Bruiser, almost rendering the victim unconscious.*



*Ox leans on Ron Pritchard, who is caught on the ropes (above). Note Baker ignores the referee.*

Again and again, over the years, Baker has behaved more cruelly than the fans could imagine. He flaunts his savagery in front of them. He dares them to tolerate his presence. It's the only way he can keep a sense of control over his personality.

Baker is afraid the crowd will tell him what kind of person he is. He finds it impossible to behave like a rational human being when they shout at him. Yet he's afraid to be the man they believe him to be. People are telling him he's a killer and a maniac. He starts behaving in the way people tell him to behave. However, he becomes terrified when he realizes he's only the reflection of people's opinions; there is no center of himself.

He has two choices. One, he can be the opposite of what people think he is; an almost impossible task for a public person. Often, it leads to nervous breakdowns. The only other choice Baker has is to lead the people's opinion of him. Whatever the fans think he will try to be worse. No matter what the fans think, Baker will show them he's even worse!

Unfortunately, Baker doesn't realize he's being driven—he's not the driver. In the end, it's the fans who are making him do what he does. He is their unknowing slave. He is forced by their image of him to get worse and worse.

It's doubtful even Ox Baker knows who he is at this point. So long the pawn of fans' misconceptions, his real personality is either destroyed or buried under dangerous neuroses.

The fans hate Ox Baker. Unhappily, Baker is the man the fans forced him to be. □





BY NESSIM DURRELL

Before beginning the most intricate series of predictions ever devised for any sport, a word of introduction is in order. Though I don't mean the following to be a short advertisement for myself, it is important all are assured the astrological and psychic predictions are not the work of some charlatan.

I am the product of the most strange of couplings; my mother was an Arabian refugee and my father was a doctor of mathematics. They met in Paris during the late 1920s, when my father was a student at the Sorbonne. They married and I was born three years later.

My mother was a mystic. Using her gifts, she could divine the future and peer into a person's most hidden secrets. My father, according to his colleagues was a technical genius without inspiration. From these two sources, my own special skills have come.

I have had psychic experiences in which the future was as plain to me as the present. Yet, I have doubted these visions, fearing them the product of an overactive imagination. To corroborate my visions, I turned to the science of astrology. With a portion of my father's mathematical skills, astrological projections, which are based on mathematical formulae, were a fairly simple way for me to predict the future.

At first, I relied on astrology only to see if it agreed with my parapsychological glimpses of the future. Then, as I became more involved in this intricate science, I began to rely on that as a main means of prediction. I have found it more reliable than my senses. I do not have the powers equal to my mother.

I have chosen the following wrestlers not only by their popularity, but also by the psychic vibrations I felt in their presence. Each has been interviewed by me for over two hours, some for as many as days on end. Their astrological charts have been worked

# A Top Astrologist Predicts ... WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR WRESTLING'S TOP STARS

out to the smallest detail. At first, we had hoped to print them in their entirety, but many of the wrestlers rightly argued that a person's astrological chart is not a thing for public consumption. Therefore, we have printed only the year's predictions and how they were arrived at.

My fame in astrological and psychic circles is widespread; I believe I can say this without bragging. I have done as much as any human alive to make sure my predictions for the future are correct. Having long been a wrestling fan, since my days as a refugee in New

York shortly before World War II, I feel I know the sport well enough to interpret both the astrological and psychic data. Therefore, I can claim without fear of being questioned that this is the most complete series of predictions possible at this time.

I have restrained, for the most part, from drawing conclusions. The intelligent fan should be able to discover which wrestlers will be the most dangerous of others. The facts are there. The final research and conclusions have been by choice left up to the discerning reader. □





## RAY STEVENS

Tragedy stalks Ray Stevens this year, and only the most careful planning can prevent disaster. Being a Capricorn under the influence of Mercury, it will be a difficult 12 months for the grappler. He should take no chances at all in either his professional or personal life.

Travel should be as limited as possible and others should be in charge. No new business ventures are recommended. He should limit the number of new opponents he faces. Young challengers should be ignored. He should pick the most advantageous location in which to wrestle during January and stay there for the entire year. Absolutely no new holds should be introduced into his repertoire. At all costs, opponents born under the sign of Pisces, Scorpio, and Aires must be avoided. Tag team matches will be especially dangerous for him. Partners should be born under Cancer and Virgo; all others will prove incompatible. However, Ray's personal life will be relatively calm and help him enormously during the agonizing months of March and October. If possible, he should give all decision-making responsibilities to others, preferably a Taurus. If Stevens can escape the influence of Mars, he should be able to survive the year. Caution should be his watchword for the next 12 months. □



## HARLEY RACE

It promises to be a tempestuous year for Geminis, especially one like Harley Race. The wrestler will be under the influence of both Mars and Neptune, both of which will be in conjunction with Jupiter during the year. This means Harley will do well to avoid any tough match from August through October. September will be especially dangerous for him,

so he should be very careful. It might be a good time for a vacation, but only with limited travel. A resort hotel will be the best place for him. He should schedule his toughest matches for April, May and July. He will be most creative during January, when he should develop new maneuvers. February will be an excellent time for travel and meeting new opponents. He should have great success against any unfamiliar opponent under the signs of Virgo, Libra, and Scorpio. It is imperative he avoid wrestling anyone under the sign of Sagittarius during this time, however. A serious injury could be incurred. Harley should avoid anyone giving him advice on his career during April and May. He should be able to make his own decisions with unerring accuracy and others will only muddy the waters. Harley should not make any business investments he can't absorb without being hurt. Due to his planet factoring, any financial venture will be very risky. □







**RIC FLAIR**

The new year should be a great one for Ric Flair. Born under the sign of Leo the Lion, everything appears to be in his favor—as long as he follows my careful advice. If there is any planet which will cause Ric to perform below the high standards he sets for himself, as all Leos do, it is Saturn. Two of its larger moons will be directly in a vector with two of Jupiter's moons, which are always excellent for Leos.

The time of this vector will occur in late spring, but Flair has too many plusses and positive factors in his favor to let Saturn destroy what might be a championship year for

him. According to the position of the planet Neptune, in correlation with Ric's outstanding moon sign, there is a dark-haired opponent with nine letters in his name who Flair should avoid confronting. This opponent has been a general nuisance and detriment to Flair's career in every way. The winter will be just sensational for Ric. Just about anything he attempts to do will work out as he plans and hopes for. However, during that time he must avoid Capricorns, as their signs clash violently with Leos. A Leo's electrical and magnetic field simply will not tolerate the unquestionable interference generated by a Capricorn. Early January, late May, and early August will be more or less critical times for Ric. If at all possible, he should not wrestle during this time, for severe physical injury is imminent. However, the year for the most part appears to be very promising for Flair. The intergalactic calendar and Ric Flair's signs all point up to one thing—the next 12 months will be splendid for him. □



**JERRY LAWLER**

If anyone asks Jerry Lawler to wrestle far away from home during the months in May through August, he should leap at the chance. During these months, Jerry will be most suited to conquer new challenges. He would be wise

to spend March and April perfecting his best holds. At all costs, he should avoid experimentation. Sticking with what he does best will prove to be his most advantageous course. Being a Pisces with his moon in Taurus, Lawler will be clever to avoid travel in November and December, staying close to home. If he acquires any added responsibilities during his spring and summer travels, he would be well advised to minimize their importance. Any title he earns will be in special jeopardy during December, when Jupiter will bode ill. A vacation during January will be advisable, but it should have limited physical activity. He will be most creative intellectually during October and should be receptive to new ideas. At this time, he can experiment and develop new methods. He should avoid wrestling any Leos, especially during April. He should be cautious with business ventures. With care, he could be financially successful. His personal life will probably be rocky, but not disastrous. □





## BLACKJACK MULLIGAN

If any wrestler will benefit from taking reckless chances this year, it will be Blackjack Mulligan. An Aires with his moon in Gemini, he'll be under the strong influence of Jupiter throughout the year. When Mars comes in conjunction with that largest of all planets, Mulligan should be unbeatable. His best

months will be February through May. The summer will be a time of personal upheaval for him and it may affect his wrestling. He would be better off if he maintains a strict separation between friends and business during July and August. If he takes a friend into his professional ventures, it can only end in disaster. He should be free to experiment with new maneuvers, for they will probably be successful. The only opponents to worry about during the year will be those born under the sign of Cancer. He should avoid tag team partners born under earth and fire signs. In fact, most of his success will be had on his own. He would be wise to go after a title with concentrated determination during August and September. Under no circumstances should he attempt a tag team title during March or April. He will be prone to accidents during travel, especially during January. It can be the greatest year of Blackjack Mulligan's life, if he just lets it happen. □



## PAUL JONES

As a double Sagittarius—both his sun and moon sign fall under the archer—Paul Jones is extremely susceptible to the influence of Mercury. This year will mean a great deal in Jones' career, for better or for worse. There is obviously great upheaval for him, but it is unclear what the result will be. However, it should

wind up in his favor if he is careful in the early spring. He should rely on his own judgement and ignore advice from new friends. He will find himself embroiled in some controversy over the summer and will do well to keep a level head. In August, advice from friends should be heeded, but not to the point of ignoring his own good judgement. May is the best month for him to take a vacation. He will be especially receptive to new ideas in February and this will be his most creative month. Over the year, he should have the most success against Pisces, Capricorn, and Aquarian wrestlers. Courage should be tempered by intelligence and kept closely in check. Patience will be more than a virtue; it will be a necessity. Any recklessness will bring his downfall. He should be especially wary of Leo wrestlers during July. Any tag team partner not under a water sign will prove dangerous. Any risk should be avoided, especially during November. □







## VERNE GAGNE

It will be a rugged winter and spring for Verne Gagne, an Aquarian. Confusion in both his personal and professional life will test his patience and insight. April will be a very hard

month for him, with those closest seeming distant and unreceptive. He will be overly creative, conceiving of much good and bad without being able to tell the difference. He would do well to rely on the opinions of friends rather than his own. They may appear cruel, but they will be much more helpful than his own opinion. Risks should be kept at a minimum. No new challengers, especially Scorpio and Sagittarius, should be confronted. Not until May will Verne be in full control of his fate. June will be the best month for him to take risks. He will be most critically perceptive during this time. The summer should prove rewarding professionally although the turbulence in his personal life will not subside until November. It will not be the best year in Verne's life, but he should struggle through virtually unharmed except for memories. The friends he has made over the years will be his salvation, although they will be sorely tried in Gagne's more outrageous moments. □



## IVAN PUTSKI

The year will probably begin much brighter than it will end for Ivan Putski. January through April will find him at his peak physically and mentally. Then, he falls under the influence of Jupiter, which will create great turmoil in Ivan's professional life. Being a Cancer, he

may find himself facing trials he will be unable to meet. There will be a complex set of forces operating against Putski, especially during the autumn months. He will be hard-pressed to defeat tough opponents. His strategies will most likely fail him, as they will be borne of desperation rather than logic. Chances of injury are great, especially during October. Ivan would be advised to take it easy in the autumn, facing no new challengers. Any recklessness on Ivan's part is sure to end in disaster. During this time, Ivan should rely on the advice of friends. Travel is especially dangerous during the last part of the year. New friendships will prove shallow and end badly, at great expense to Putski's well-being. He should ignore everyone but those closest to him. He will find little happiness outside the wrestling arena. November will be a swirl of planets struggling to gain dominance over his actions. Hopefully, there will be no permanent scars from the turmoil of the last part of 1977. □





## THE SHEIK

This will be a dangerous year for Sheik. Only great caution can save him from certain di-

saster in both his personal as well as professional life. Born under the sign of Taurus the bull, Sheik is going to be at the mercy of the planets Mars and Jupiter, which will be in conjunction during the most critical time of the year. Also, Sheik is under the control of Saturn, and has been for more than two years. His recent operation for undisclosed reasons makes this all too obvious. The summer will be the most dangerous season for Sheik. There is every possibility he may not survive professionally until the fall. He should be especially careful to avoid all wrestlers born under earth signs, for they will surely finish him off. Sheik should do his toughest wrestling of the year during the early spring, when he should be his most effective. March and April will be his best months. May will be critical, and again, the summer months bode disaster. It would be best if he vacationed during that time. ☐



## ERNIE LADD

Due to the strong influence of Mars, Ernie Ladd can look forward to a turbulent year full of action—and agony. Ladd has been under the influence of Mars for more than eight months.

A Virgo with his moon in Capricorn, Ernie will also be dominated by the conjunction of Saturn and Mars. The first two months of the year will be most difficult for Ladd. He will find his opponents tougher than he expects and training more arduous. Any opponent who is an Aquarius, Gemini, or Scorpio will give him the most difficulty. The only way Ernie can hope to win a title during these months is against a Libra, and even then his chances will be slim. However, by the time late spring rolls around, Ladd should be invincible. All he must avoid are fellow Virgos; others should easily fall victim to him. He should schedule his most important matches for May and the first week in June. Summer will see tensions in his personal life—neglected during the spring—catch up with him. Ernie will be well-advised to take it easy during July and August, paying attention to family and friends. The last part of the year will be calm and hold no crisis for the wrestler. ☐







## CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW

If Chief Jay Strongbow can manage to get a title shot during late spring and early fall, there's every chance he will be successful. However, he should make no ambitious commitments for winter and especially avoid tough matches during March. These are very critical months for any Cancer, especially one with his moon sign in Sagittarius. This means any great change in lifestyle could prove dis-

astrous during March. November and December will also be months in which he will have difficulty succeeding in any endeavor, due to the strong influence of Venus. Travel will prove fruitful for Strongbow during the summer. He should use this time to meet new people and begin new business ventures. However, he must be careful; wild enthusiasms could bring trouble. This would be a good time to develop new maneuvers but not use them in a match. October will be the perfect month to introduce new moves against opponents. Strongbow must be careful during August about all things pertaining to his ranch. His signs say he is out of harmony with nature during these months and disaster could strike if he makes a wrong decision, which would be very likely. He should stay in the gym, leaving the problems of the ranch with another. All in all, by practicing a little caution, this should be a very good year for Strongbow. □



## WAHOO McDANIEL

It will be a rough year for Wahoo McDaniel, a man born under the sign of Scorpio. He

should be warned against wrestling Leos, Virgos, and Libras during the first three months and last four months of the year. It seems likely he will suffer an injury which will require his hospitalization during the summer months, probably at the hands of an Aquarian. Tag team partners will prove poor, if not downright dangerous, especially during October and November. Travel is discouraged. Opponents with their signs in Cancer will be the easiest to conquer. He should listen to the advice of new friends only if they are earth and fire signs. If possible, he should avoid any wrestling during June. New maneuvers might help him during March but could prove tragic during the summer. He should beware of new friendships from April to November, especially if they are also Scorpios. During the last quarter of the year, Wahoo should seek the company of people outside of wrestling. A title may require too many responsibilities for a man with his moon in Sagittarius. □





## DUSTY RHODES

Can Dusty Rhodes win the NWA title in 1977? The stars say no, but it is not a totally negative reply. A Gemini, Rhodes is heading for a year that appears to be more exciting for the fans than personally selfgratifying for himself. Oddly enough, there is no one sign big

Dusty should avoid facing in 1977, although Capricorns and Aries may give him more than his share of trouble. If he can also avoid facing any Pisces in January, I feel he'd be much better off for it. There appears to be one mid-summer day in late August, when Rhodes should unquestionably not wrestle, not exercise not do anything. It is the one day during the year I can definitely foresee him suffering a paralyzing injury. With his major guiding planet Venus, Dusty should do fairly well against some air signs. The latter part of the summer and the early to middle part of the fall should prove successful to Dusty, as his moon, sun, and Earth signs all correspond with one another in harmony during that time. I can foresee, according to the stars, planets, and Dusty's chart, Rhodes having a difficult time against a large, bald-headed wrestler. Taking that at face value, I'd advise Dusty to give much consideration before wrestling such a person. If he follows his signs, 1977 should treat him fairly well. □



## JACK BRISCO

A Virgo who was born on the cusp of Libra, Jack Brisco faces a rough year ahead in 1977. The summer appears to be the season which will give Jack the most trouble. However, he'll be riding the crest of a good moon sign during July and August, and this should help offset any problems he may encounter during those blazing hot summer months. Over the next 12 months, Brisco will be walking an astrolo-

gical tightrope. There are many signs that will have Brisco falling right down the middle on certain days. These days, March 4-11, and October 7-18, can see him either winning impressively or suffering a crippling injury. Usually, a person will enjoy either a good or a bad day, and his chart is easy to read. But Brisco's chart will be affected by strong planet influence due to his weak sun sign during the days mentioned. However, the two weeks following the March and October dates will be excellent times for Jack. If he is to regain the title, it is during this time. A crisis could be brewing in the family, as Jack's brother Jerry's best time will be the summer. For Jack, the summer is questionable at best, and I foresee a severe falling out between the two if they are not careful. He should not, and I stress this point, do battle with a Taurus during any time of the year. With careful planning, 1977 can be a banner year for Jack Brisco. Without planning, the year can spell disaster. □







**ROCKY JOHNSON**

The planet Venus will exercise great control over Rocky Johnson's life during the year. An Aquarian with his moon in Libra, the grappler will find himself unsure and confused when

confronted by new, difficult decisions. He should avoid attempting new maneuvers and stick to what he does best. It might also be wise for him to limit his repertoire, relying on those few moves most successful over the years. He will have little or no success against Pisces and Taurus opponents during any of the next 12 months. During the spring, he should also avoid other Aquarians and Geminis. The summer will find Leos and Virgos insurmountable opponents. Travel should be as limited as possible. New friends will prove themselves poor friends. Advice should be taken only from those who have proven themselves reliable in the past. His personal life will be turbulent and probably tragic. Vacations to old and familiar places will be the most successful. Only the slight countering influence of Jupiter during the latter part of the year shows any hope for great success. Johnson is not only battling his foes this year, he's battling the stars. We can wish him luck for he shall need every bit of luck he can get. □



**BOBO  
BRAZIL**

As a Pisces, Bobo Brazil may find 1977 a bit rough to handle. The planet Saturn, dominating all born under the sign of Pisces, is in serious opposition from three of Jupiter's moons. The tremendous gravitational pull upon Saturn from these moons refutes any of the positive forces a Pisces such as Bobo may derive in quieter, more settled times. He should avoid confrontations against Cancer and Virgo opponents. There are clues which point to Bobo suffering a crippling injury this

year. It could happen to Brazil, and it may happen with his own weapon—the headbutt or "Cocoa Butt," which could very well happen in this year of astrological turmoil for him. The winter will be the roughest time of the year for him, and if he does decide to wrestle during that time, it should certainly not be in tag-team matches, where every sign points to a severe injury. In Bobo's favor is a powerful moon sign, which is to derive its' power during the year from Mars—an asset to every Pisces such as Bobo. However, Venus may affect Brazil in an adverse way. Venus is in the same position in the galaxy this year as it was when Bobo had difficulty avoiding injury several years ago. If there is any special time of the year Bobo can look forward to, it is early September, when he can expect to be at the peak of his powers. The early part of the year will present nothing special to Brazil, but he must always be on the defensive and conscious of serious injury. □





**MIKE GRAHAM**

A wild and reckless year seems to be in store for Mike Graham, especially during April and May. A Sagittarius with his moon in Capricorn, Mike will be under the mercy of Mars through most of the year—and Mars is a merciless master! Others will try to calm him down, but it will be to no avail. Instead, he will take the advice of newfound friends born under the sign of Leo. Graham will be especial-

ly vulnerable to their bad advice during August, when Jupiter is in conjunction with Mars. He must not join a tag team with a Leo, although the temptation will be great. He will feel restless during the spring and want to travel wildly. This should be discouraged. With his intemperate mind, Graham should have things as calm as possible around him. He should give all financial problems over to experts. Experimentation will be very tempting but it will also be very dangerous. Graham will use low percentage maneuvers which will place him in great jeopardy. Only a Cancer with his moon in Libra will have any influence over Mike, and then only from June through September. If anyone offers him a chance at the title, Mike should refuse at least until November, when Venus will begin to have a mellowing influence upon him. If Mike Graham can get a shot at a world champion who is not a Capricorn or Aquarian in mid December, I have no doubt he will win the championship. □



**BOB ORTON JR.**

A man or woman born under an earth or fire sign will bring Bob Orton Jr. to the brink of disaster. This Aries with his moon in Aquarius will be especially susceptible to the evil schemes of this person during July and November, when the influence of Mars will be especially strong. Bob will also find his most

successful maneuvers being thwarted often during April, making him try desperate and partially successful new maneuvers. Orton should profit from risks taken late in the year due to the favorable influence of Jupiter. Advice from recent friends should be weighed carefully, but no hasty decisions should be made. Bob should take great care to separate his professional and personal life, most critically during the summer. If he makes any championship attempts, he would be wise to do it in January, February, or December. The stars are so positioned as to make great success during the other months highly unlikely. Bob should also be wary of a bald man in his '50s who will promise him untold riches. Bob will be wise to listen to the advice of his father, especially against a wrestler with whom he's feuding. October will be a critical month for Bob in many ways when many of his more recent friends will desert him. Bob will be very wise to consider the advice of fans. □







## ANDRE THE GIANT

Caution should be practiced by Andre the Giant at all times during 1977. Jupiter is in a dangerous conjunction with Mercury for most of the year, and Venus is a secondary influence. This will tend to make this Libra with his moon in Pisces tend toward arrogance and impatience. Andre should listen to the advice of others very carefully, especially Aquarians and

Geminis. People who want to use him for their own ugly purposes will be plentiful during the period of August through November. During this time, it would be wise for him to listen to the advice of old friends. He should make no decisions without consulting others. He should avoid any concentrated effort for a championship, at least during the summer and fall. Travel will prove rewarding and he shouldn't wear out his welcome anywhere. No more than a month in any area is recommended. A tall man who walks with a cane, perhaps due to a wrestling injury, will have great influence over Andre during the spring and early summer. It will not always be a good relationship for Andre, although the man will sincerely wish to help the giant. Andre should avoid any friendships with air and water signs, most critically during late summer. The early retirement of a friend will bother Andre unduly and cause a deep depression lasting over two months. It will be a rugged year for Andre. □



## STAN HANSEN

This will be the best of years and worst of years for Stan Hansen. With his sun sign in Scorpio and his moon in Virgo, the grappler will be under the strong dual influences of Mercury and Jupiter. This will cause him to do everything to its limits, including success and failure. No one will be as great as Hansen and no one will fall so low. Stan would do well to

avoid wrestling entirely from August to late October. Venus will give him some stability late in the year. Everything Stan does will be a risk. Chances of injury are very great, most likely in May. Travel could prove either very rewarding or fatal. He should allow others to drive and take public transportation whenever possible. Capricorns, Geminis, Pisces, and Leos will prove to be useful friends, but only for a short time. Libras will give him the most trouble, probably being most dangerous in June and July. Tag team partnerships should be limited and avoided wherever possible. Stan should beware of any man asking him to venture into business beyond wrestling. He must not have a manager with either a fire or water sign. He should find his friends outside his profession. He should consider a vacation during November with extensive traveling, perhaps a tour of France. Stan Hansen will probably be the biggest winner—and loser—of 1977. □





## MIL MASCARAS

There is danger in the late fall for Mil Mascaras due to the conjunction of Mercury and Venus. This Aries with his moon in Virgo can expect to meet adversities in his professional and financial life during October and November, though all should be resolved satisfactorily by the end of the year. Men born under

the sign of Capricorn and Libra should not be trusted. A man with a beard will bring despair to Mil, probably in the late spring. Travel is recommended for most of the year and new challenges should be met gracefully. If there is an initial failure in any pursuit, Mascaras should drop the project entirely and go on to something else. No venture should occupy more than two weeks of his time, especially in late fall. Relationships not already formed should be shunned. It will be a bad year for Mil to consider a lasting tag team partnership. During July, the influence of Mars will be great, therefore Gemini and Pisces should be avoided at all costs. Opponents born under the sign of Capricorn will give Mil trouble from January to August. A wrestler from the mid-west will betray Mil's confidence in the fall, which may result in some minor but painful injury. Mascaras should be leery of anyone promising him a title shot against the AWA champion—it's a ruse to destroy him. □



## NICK BOCKWINKLE

Due to the position of the planets during the next year, it is very difficult to predict the future for Nick Bockwinkle. A double Virgo, he is captured by many different but weak influences. For the past year Nick has been under strong influence from Mars, accounting for his success. However, Jupiter and Mercury are now beginning to exert their influence as

Mars begins to wane. Therefore, these three planets will have weak influences over Nick during the next year before Jupiter and Mercury establish their strength during the latter part of 1977. One can only predict Nick will become unpredictable. He will be courageous and cowardly, happy and sad, great and awful. One can expect an identity crisis during late June but any radical change is doubtful. Nick would be wise to stay close to home during the year, for he will be unable to cope with new circumstances. He will find any learning experience difficult and unrewarding, at least until August. He runs a risk with any new endeavor. Travel should be fairly safe, but not too demanding. There is no telling how well he will do against his opponents but it will be risky. Nick could lose during any match. He might do well to trust longtime friends and shun new acquaintances. There is a better than even chance Nick Bockwinkle will lose his title by the end of March or April. □







## LORD AL HAYS

If Lord Al Hays can survive the spring months, he can count on having an excellent year. Whether this Gemini will escape the negative influence of Mercury during April and May is unclear. He should be especially careful against a man 29 to 31 years of age and with a

scar on his back. He will be receptive to new ideas during August and September, due to the conjunction of Venus and Jupiter. However, the influence of Mars during October will confuse him and make him safest with his tried and true methods. Under no circumstances should he travel more than 250 miles from home in any direction during January and February. He should be wary of deals too good to be true—most likely an offer to form a tag team—during May and June. New alliances will prove dangerous, especially in late spring and December. His moon is Virgo makes it wise for him to avoid Capricorn and Sagittarius opponents, especially those whose last names contain more than two vowels. He should seek the advice of Leos and Arieans in dealing with his professional life only. His personal life will be turbulent, especially during October and November. Well-meaning friends will give him terrible advice. Hays can have a great year, if he's careful. □



## TERRY FUNK

Born with his sun in Capricorn and moon in Aries, Terry Funk will be in for the toughest year of his life. Mars and Venus will have equal influence over him, breeding confusion and stubbornness. Unable to make up his own mind, Funk will fail to seek the counsel of

others. He will surround himself with subversive leeches, probably Cancers and Geminis. They will tell him what he wants to hear rather than what he should know. A dangerous influence will enter his life during April and May, leaving him in a precarious position. His honor will be smeared and his reputation permanently damaged. The person, either a man or a woman, will be younger than Terry by about 10 years, involved in wrestling but not wrestler himself. He should avoid opponents with water and air signs, especially during October, when Mars will be in conjunction with Saturn. He will believe those closest to him will be betraying him during August, but he will be wrong. Many of his closest friends will be his enemies by the end of the year. If Terry is lucky, he can retain the title, but not without suffering greatly for it. There will be what appears as a run of good fortune in May, but it will turn out to be a prelude to even greater difficulties. □





## SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM

Billy Graham has every reason to fear the unknown this year. The influence of Jupiter will make any new venture turn sour for this Leo with his moon in Sagittarius, especially from April through December. This year, Graham should go back to places in which he is comfortable and where he has enjoyed former glory. Tag team partners from his past will

also help him. New ones will badly betray him. New maneuvers will prove useless and potentially dangerous to himself. In business, he should avoid the advice of all born under fire and earth signs, especially during December, which appears to be a crucial month for Superstar in many ways. He will do best against Virgos and Libras he has already faced. Graham should ignore the advice of people who claim to have his best interests at heart and rely mostly on his judgements. He will find himself overwhelmed by new friends during the spring and summer. The stars tell him to rid himself of these people as quickly as possible. Graham's greatest danger is from a female fan with flaming red hair and seeking some sort of revenge. He should trust his instincts over logic throughout the year. **WARNING:** If Superstar should wrestle a villain of either Russian or Chinese origin during the month of May, Billy Graham will be permanently crippled and his career will end. □



## BRUISER

The influence of Jupiter during the last three months of the year is the only possible reason for unhappiness for Bruiser. A Taurus with his moon in Scorpio, he will enjoy great success during April and September. Professionally, his stars indicate a period of experimentation would be fruitful during February and March. He will be able to grow with remarkable ease. Spring will find him wary of new ideas and

he'll spend his time absorbing the new maneuvers learned during the winter. He'll have great success with tag team partners during the summer. Enjoying a relatively patient demeanor, Bruiser will be able to adapt easily to others' needs. He will have the most success with partners born under the signs of Cancer, Gemini, and Pisces. Mars will make him a ferocious warrior during May and June. He will do best this year against opponents born under the sign of Libra, Aires, and Sagittarius. It would be unwise for him to challenge a Capricorn during November or December. Travel is not discouraged but will not prove very fruitful. He will do best in comfortable surroundings. He should find great joy in both old and new friends. Their advice will prove excellent, especially during February and August. An excellent time to vacation would be November and December, when the influence of Jupiter will make professional achievements hazardous. □







## CHAVO GUERRERO

This should be a very good year for Chavo Guerrero, who was born under the sign of

Cancer the crab. Although all people born under this sign should do well in 1977, it should be an especially good year for Chavo, whose moon is rising in Virgo. However, I do not see a world title for Chavo this year because Terry Funk, a Capricorn, is immune to challenges from Cancers. Chavo must be most careful during the months of January and February, when he is open to serious injury. He should not wrestle any man of German descent during these months. If he does I see he will be crippled, perhaps permanently. The fourth quarter of 1977—especially the month of October—will be the best period of young Chavo's career. Unfortunately, by late December, Saturn will be in a position where it can adversely effect young Guerrero. It is during this period he must avoid wrestling any Virgo over six feet, five inches tall. All in all, 1977 should be a good year for Chavo Guerrero. □



## BRUNO SAMMARTINO

The conjunction of Mars and Venus in February makes the outlook bleak for Bruno Sammartino, a Libra with his moon in Aries. Due to the effect of the planets upon his emotions, Sammartino risks becoming reckless and making poor decisions under pressure. He

should shed responsibilities rather than seek honors. A long sabbatical from wrestling should be taken, especially from March to July. Opponents under the influence of Jupiter will prove especially difficult for him, and debilitating injury can be expected. Wrestlers whom he defeated before may prove more difficult during this time of stress. A wrestler whose blond hair covers his ears will either come close to taking the title or actually become the next WWWF champion. Bruno should avoid such a man at all costs. Advice from friends will prove worthless unless given by a Leo or Cancer. New friends will prove kind but ineffectual. He should avoid new tag team partners at all costs, especially those who are fire signs. Bruno should avoid all challenges and take life easy. He will be especially susceptible to injury during the month of May. He will be betrayed by a wrestler who speaks with a thick accent. The stars will not be kind to Bruno Sammartino in 1977. □



**T**HE HONEYMOON IS over. Every rookie who shows promise is welcomed into the sport with open arms and great expectations. After he has made a name for himself, the hardest part begins. And that hardest part has begun for Chavo Guerrero.

The young wrestler must now earn a reputation. The wrestling fraternity no longer excuses his mistakes. The period of critical scrutiny has begun. This is the period which can make or break a wrestler. It marks the difference between being a one-day wonder or a legitimate star.

Every match takes on great importance. Two or three sloppy battles in row, no matter what the excuse, could mean Chavo would be doomed forever to preliminary bouts. A few great matches may make him a respected member of the profession.

The wrestlers and promoters are picking apart the abilities of Chavo Guerrero. They're studying all of his matches for weaknesses and strengths. When this scrutiny is over, what they don't know about Chavo won't be worth knowing.

Already, there is plenty of raw information being circulated about the young man. Though there is no consensus on Chavo's skills so far, one can predict what will eventually be said among the profession.

According to the most knowledgeable sources, there is only one thing people feel is standing between Chavo and greatness: the young man's temper. A professional athlete cannot afford to lose control. He can make his rage work for him but, he can't make himself work for his rage. There must be a composed and calculating method to all his madness. Chavo, many fear, lacks this control. When he gets angry, recklessness often leads to defeat. That, in a professional, is

unforgiveable.

Experts are quick to point out, however, a temper is often the curse of the young. Most athletes who suffer from a short temper learn to control it over the years. There's every chance Chavo will be able to make his anger work for him, as all fine veterans do.

Most mat observers agree this next year is crucial for Guerrero. During it, he will be facing rougher competition more often. He may have to leave the Los Angeles area and the crowds that love him for a while. He will hear a concentration of boos for the first time. He must learn to take them in stride. It will test his temper and determination. If he fails the challenge, he will fail as a wrestler.

Chavo is still in the formative stages of his career. Yet, wrestling experts can predict his limitations with assurance. There are certain maneuvers he is physically incapable of mastering, at least in this decade. Of course, there are some maneuvers beyond the abilities of any wrestler. Most observers believe what moves Chavo can't handle won't hurt his career. There are many maneuvers at which he will become remarkable.

Physically, Chavo Guerrero should be able to attain greatness. He has the perfect physique of a wrestler: muscular and agile. His instincts are phenomenal—he senses the right thing at the right time. It was a gift Chavo was born with. It can't be learned.

However, athletes have been known to squander their gifts and descend into mediocrity. No one can be successful at a sport without long and hard training. Those to whom a sport comes easily are the ones most likely to deteriorate the fastest. Young men, once they achieve the first plateau of success,

*(Continued on page 56)*

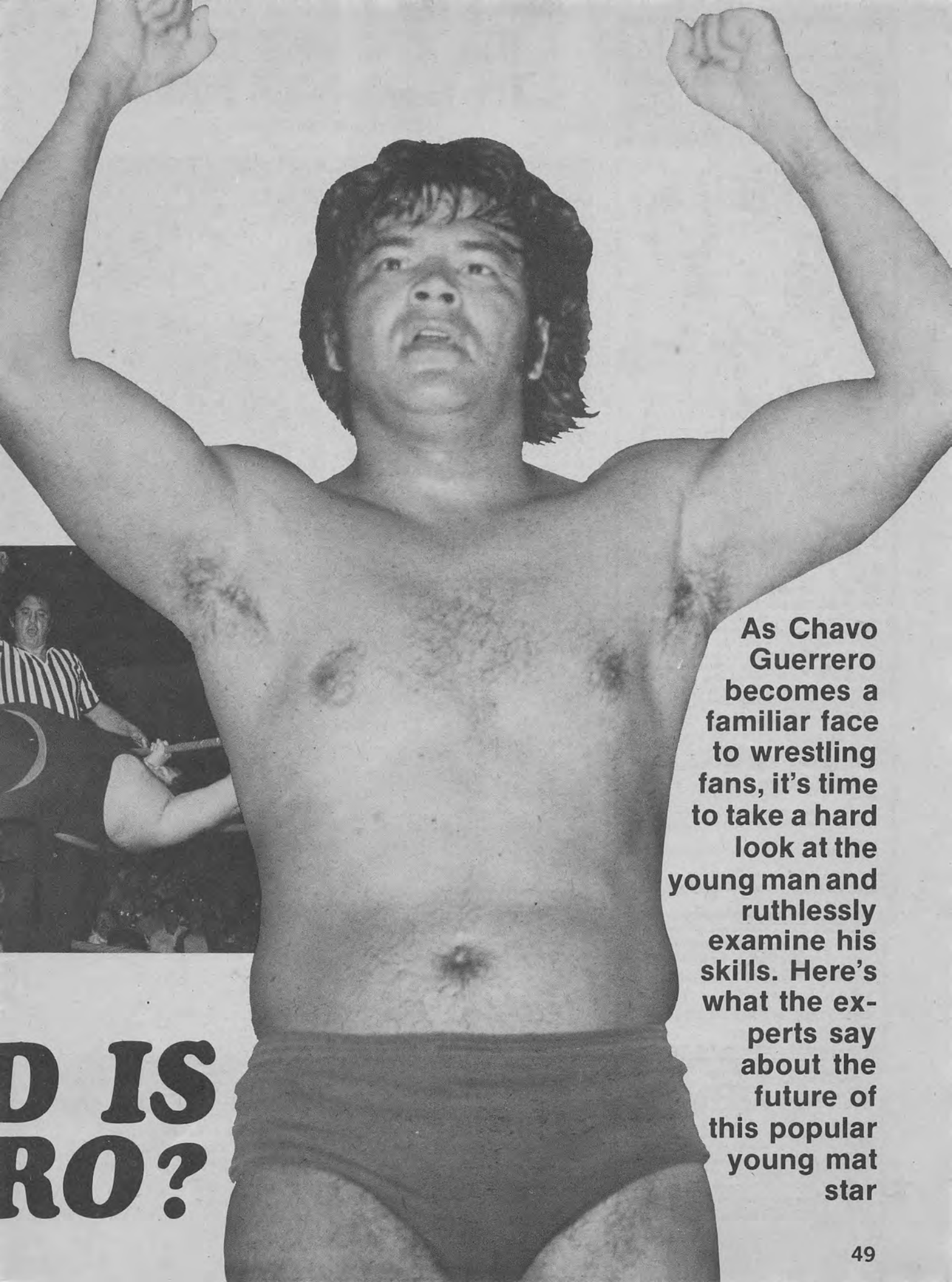


*Chavo is equally as effective if his opponent is a brawler like Butcher Brannigan (below) or a scientific grappler like Dory Funk Jr. (above). Chavo often wins (right, opposite page).*



# JUST HOW GOOD CHAVO GUERRERO



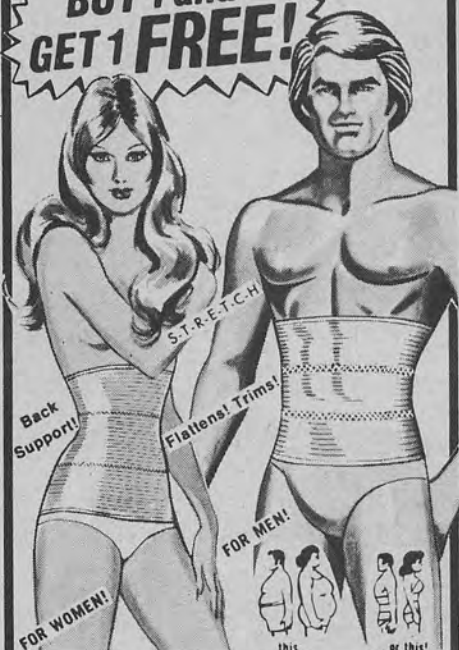


**As Chavo Guerrero becomes a familiar face to wrestling fans, it's time to take a hard look at the young man and ruthlessly examine his skills. Here's what the experts say about the future of this popular young mat star**

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# THE MAN WHO MADE THE SHEIK BACK DOWN

(Continued from Page 27)



Blood obscuring his hated features, Sheik gazes at his hand that is stained scarlet. Seeing his blood before him, Sheik mumbles some Arabic phrase to himself. One doesn't need to be a student of Arabic to know Sheik is swearing the most horrible vengeance upon the head of Dom DeNucci. When Sheik makes such a vow, it is usually kept—with the most horrible consequences for its victim!



ed of the other men Sheik has massacred. Some of the greatest mat stars around, confident of bringing the controversial grappler to bay, have been putty in Sheik's hands. Dominic was determined not to make that mistake. It would have been better if a young rookie had been as wise.

Sheik was scheduled to wrestle Mark Lewin on the evening Dominic was in the crowd. However, Lewin's jet had been delayed and a substitute grappler was needed. A young rookie begged to be allowed to wrestle Sheik. The promoter, against his better judgement but under great pressure, finally agreed. It was a decision the man would regret for the rest of his life.

Within five minutes after the match had begun, fans were pleading with the referee to stop the carnage. Sheik was all over the brave but overwhelmed youngster. It was an ugly sight guaranteed to sicken any human being. Sheik couldn't have been happier.

The referee told Sheik to stop, the match was over. But Sheik hadn't satisfied his bloodlust. His victim was helpless in his clutches and Sheik wanted to make the most of it. He refused to release his victim.

DeNucci watched in horror. When it became evident Sheik wouldn't free the wretch, Dom stripped to the waist and rushed onto the battlefield. Sheik was unprepared for the attack and found himself bloody and battered before he knew what hit him. Freed from the Arab's clutches, a sadder but wiser rookie ran to the dressing room.

DeNucci made sure the young man could get away by taking his belt and circling it around Sheik's neck. Held fast in the leather noose, the savage brawler had to let his victim free.

When Sheik was weak and bloody on the canvas, unable to hurt anyone, DeNucci grabbed the microphone and shouted, "I want Sheik in a match! I want him finished! Tonight was more than any man can tolerate! The sport demands Sheik be destroyed!"

With that, DeNucci strode out of the arena. He left Sheik in the middle of the ring, his blood staining the canvas crimson. When the Arab could finally get to his feet, he stumbled toward the dressing room. No one who saw him doubts he was aching for the most brutal revenge!

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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 18)



*Paul Jones is a superior wrestler. Yet he didn't rate as high as Bruno Sammartino or Mil Mascaras. Some fans take issue with this, pointing out that Jones is just as good as Sammartino and Mascaras. Stat-O-Chart experts saw the situation a little differently, though.*

you would do more of these charts. Everyone in the wrestling world would do well to come under the close scrutiny of Wrestling Annual.

**LES ALLERS**  
Gary, Ind.

### UNDERRATED JONES?

After reading Wrestling Annual #16, I had to write and tell you how much I agree with most of your Stat-O-Chart ratings. They were very good.

I do feel you underrated Paul Jones, especially on strength and power, as well as on speed. I definitely agree that here is a future world champion, and I mean near future. In your summary of his skills, I feel you should have mentioned that two of his best finishing maneuvers are the airplane spin and the Indian Death lock.

In the mid-Atlantic region you left out a young man who, at present, is setting the area ablaze with his fast and fancy moves. This young superstar is Dino Bravo. I would like to see your ratings on him.

Dino Bravo and Tim "Mr. Wrestling" Woods are not the tag team champions here, having taken the title from Gene and Ole Anderson. They are really a great team, and I would like to see more about them.

**THERESA TURNER**  
Raleigh, N.C.

### ALONG CAME RAY STEVENS

First off, let me congratulate you on

the Stat-O-Chart in Wrestling Annual #16. It is about time someone rated the top wrestlers to see how they match up against one another.

However, I would like to take exception to a statement made about Ray Stevens: "... hated by the fans...". Now Ray may be hated in the Southwest, but here in northern California, he is Number One! In fact, Ray Stevens is loved by the fans here more than any other wrestler, except perhaps Pat Patterson.

Hooray for Ray!

**TODD EDGE**  
Santa Cruz, Calif.

### BRUNO IS TOPS

The Stat-O-Chart ratings were a very good idea. But in my opinion, you rated Bruno rather low. I know that if I was one of the editors, Sammartino's ratings would have averaged 10.0.

I also see you are trying to compare Bruno "the king" Sammartino to Mil Mascaras. They both averaged 94.5, so what is the difference if Mascaras is on top? Sure, he is a good wrestler, but he is not half as good as Bruno.

Now come on, first you print a story about some dumb computer. And now you are comparing the champ to someone else. I am beginning to think you have something against the living legend.

**MARY JANE KOWALSKI**  
Brooklyn, N.Y. ☐

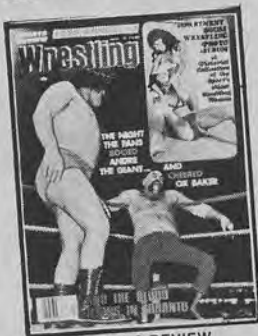


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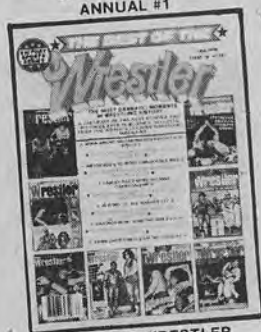
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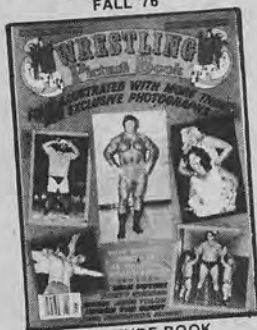
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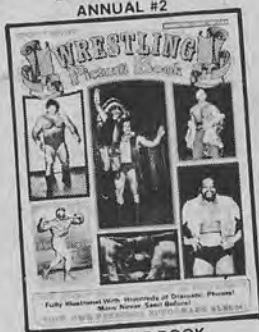
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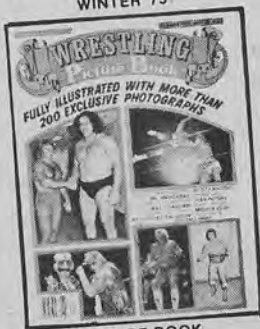
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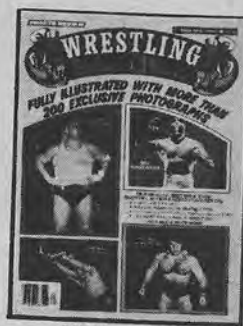
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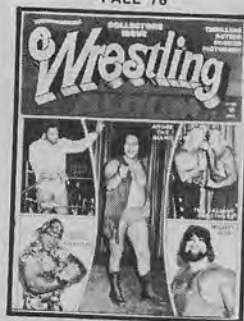
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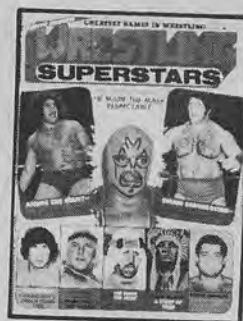
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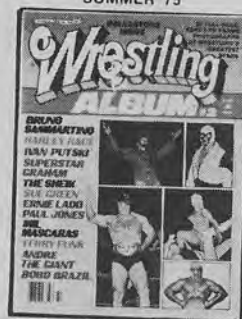
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**FRIENDS!** (Continued from Page 29)

Right: Blassie and Tolos are famous for their savage slugfests in which both leave the battle badly bleeding. Below: It was against The Sheik that Fred became a big crowd favorite.



Above: Tolos steals a small box of Monsel's powder and hurls it in Blassie's eyes, almost blinding Fred for life. Left: Fred is now the good friend of men like Mil Mascaras, his old enemy. Now it's Tolos who is his enemy.

"You'll get hurt!" Tolos pointed out. "Then I gotta find a new partner and I don't want that. We're the best team in the business."

"That shows what kind of confidence you have in me," Blassie shot back. "I don't appreciate that. Not one bit."

Tolos, at a loss for words for the first time in his life, slammed the door. That was the last Freddie saw

of him for awhile.

Blassie became a new man the night he wrestled The Sheik. He loved being cheered by the fans. It was a feeling he'd never experienced. Blassie did well in his match. He was in great shape for the upcoming Americas tag team battle with Tolos at his side. But again, a hassle occurred.

"From now on," Blassie told Tolos,



"we don't wrestle as a team unless you clean up your tactics. The fans are great and I want to be on their side. I hate being compared to guys like The Sheik. Those days are all over for us John."

"Drop dead!" the astonished Tolos exclaimed. Then he spit in Blassie's face. That was it. The team once united in a strong friendship had been dissolved.

Within the next few days, Fred accepted many single matches against men the fans hated. They were shocked at Freddie's change. They loved it.

Tolos didn't. And he announced his displeasure by pulling out of the tag team title match. Blassie didn't care one bit.

Fred's change of heart was so widely accepted that fans voted Fred the most popular wrestler. Many schools invited him to speak at assemblies and they made Blassie an honorary principal of one school.

Fred was in seventh heaven. He was in love with the world and happy without Tolos. But Tolos wanted to get Blassie out of the limelight.

So, on the day Blassie was awarded the trophy as "The Most Popular Wrestler on The West Coast," Tolos got his two cents in and almost ended Blassie's career.

As Fred was thanking the fans, John Tolos grabbed the ringside doctor's utility bag and stole a small box of Monsel's powder. He ripped it open and gutlessly threw it in Blassie's face! Tolos grabbed the trophy as horrified fans watched in shock as Fred collapsed, screaming.

The doctor came to Fred's aid as Mil Mascaras and other fan favorites chased Tolos back to the dressing room. Yes, Mil Mascaras, a Blassie enemy, was now trying to help him.

Fred was taken to the hospital where he was treated. He lost sight in both eyes for awhile. Then most of his sight returned to one eye, while the other remained with only partial sight. To this day, Fred's never gotten full sight back in one eye.

Months later, a series of the bloodiest battles west coast fans ever saw took place between Tolos and Blassie.

Years later, the feud still has not been settled. Tolos claims, "I'd do the same thing all over again." Blassie swears, "He'll never get the chance to."

But once they were friends. □

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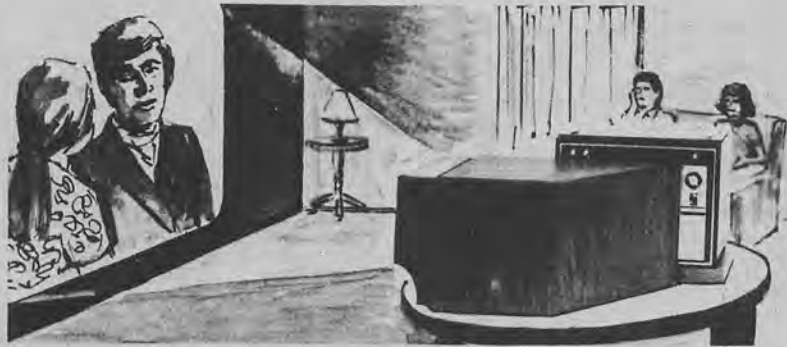
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## CHAVO GUERRO

(Continued from Page 48)



Chavo has come close to taking the NWA title from Terry Funk. He perfectly executes maneuvers like a side chinlock (above) and an armlock (below). It is his determination as much as physical skill which makes the young man seem destined to be one of the great grapplers of this tough, dynamic generation.

Against Roddy Piper, Chavo is known to lose his temper and wrestle recklessly (above). A temper tantrum can cost a title!



tend to take it easy in training. It can lead to their downfall.

One must watch Chavo closely during this time. If he can maintain his rigorous training schedule—which he seems to be doing—then his success is almost assured. However, if the glamour of wealth proves too heavy a burden for him to

handle, then this mat star must be written off as a flash-in-the-pan. We will be able to tell for sure within six months. Knowing Chavo, there seems little to worry about in this area. Yet, there have been bigger surprises about men who ignored their sport to pursue their pleasure. Most wrestlers who fade quickly





Above: Terry Funk cries out in agony after being captured in a perfect Guerrero surfboard. Below: Chavo's entire body is well employed when he grabs Roddy Piper in a fine headlock early in their savage match.



fade after their first year of success.

Perhaps the most telling sign of Chavo's future occurred recently in Mexico City. The cartel of wealthy businessmen who are giving Chavo up to \$1 million for his career, spent close to \$15,000 for expert reports on their man. They were determined to see if the money was well spent of if they should stop the venture. The report on Chavo's chances read over 300 pages.

The findings of the report have remained secret. However, the businessmen are still supporting Chavo with no change in policy. The report must have been highly favorable.

According to the best wrestling brains money can buy, it seems Chavo Guerrero is just what he appears to be—a man destined to be champion! ☐

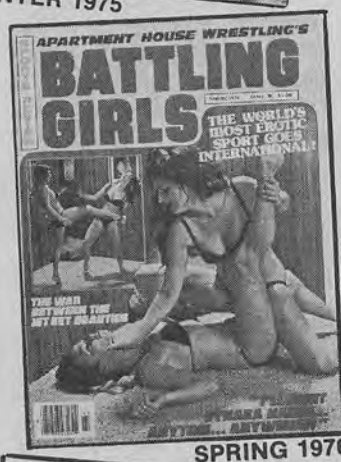
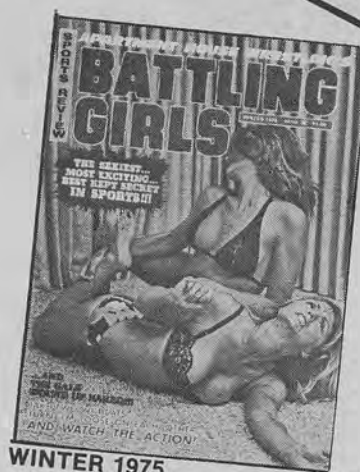
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## 1976 VOTE

(Continued from Page 13)

manager should be able to excite the crowds as well as inspire his wrestlers to victory. If his presence sells tickets, then he's doing his job. Even if the fans come to boo him, they've still come. Also, titles won by men under his guidance is a very important consideration. However, only a man's managerial skill should be counted—if still an active wrestler, his grappling skills must be ignored. Last year, the man who won was the hated George Cannon. The year before, equally despised Lou Albano walked off with the honor. Obviously, this is not a popularity contest! □

sport. Courage and ambition, such as participating in matches with regular-sized opponents, is important. The midget who has done most to show how little separates the smaller man from the heavyweight battler should be given special consideration in the voting. Dignity is almost as important as skill in this category. Last year, this was evident in the balloting when Sky Low Low was elected the top midget in his field. Here is a man who has combined dignity and skill for decades, bringing midget wrestling the respect it deserves as an exciting sport.



LAST YEAR'S WINNER: SKY LOW LOW

## MIDGET WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

Though a midget is eligible in all other categories, these remarkable athletes are also given a separate category of their own. The winner should be judged on the same criteria used for any other top athlete. Also, the midget mat star should be judged on how greatly he has added to the dignity of his or her

When Sky first came onto the scene, midget grappling was dismissed as a diversion. Today, it rates highly in the world of professional athletics. This year's winner should be able to claim he's helped the sport more than it has helped him. Naturally, both men and women midgets are not only eligible in this category, but also in any other one. The year before Sky won the honor, it went to Darlin' Dagmar. □





## LAST YEAR'S WINNERS: THE ANDERSON BROTHERS TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

Similar rules apply in this category as in Wrestler of the Year. Nominees should be those who teamed regularly during the year, not a pair who formed an alliance only for a few matches. The grapplers should not be judged on their individual merit, but rather on how well they battle as a team. It's more than likely two mediocre wrestlers can combine into a great team while two brilliant grapplers are unable to function well together. Only the accomplishments of this year should be considered. A new tag team which looks promising is ineligible. Again, this is not a popularity contest. The team need not have been seen personally by the voter. Reliable reporting can be used as a basis for judgement. The winners need not be champions. Whether or not a team has a manager should not be a consideration. The team should have wrestled together for at least six months of the year, however, and have a good record of varied accomplishments. The quality and variety of opponents should be given great consideration. A member of any other tag team is eligible for any other award. The top team need not not have the same manager.

(Continued on page 60)

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## 1976 VOTE

(Continued from Page 59)

## VILLAIN OF THE YEAR

This designation is given to the wrestler who has most outraged the fans by his or her use of illegal tactics to savagely torture opponents. The grappler must first be judged on his ruthlessness and cruelty. His enjoyment of having an opponent writhe in agony is one of the prime qualifications. He should also be skillful, able to cripple the best in the sport. The most reprehensible man in the



LAST YEAR'S WINNER:  
GREG VALENTINE



sport should have a wide repertoire of maneuvers, both flagrant and subtle. Also, the brawler should be cunning, able to keep his cheating from the eyes of the referee. Remember, being a good cheater is a skill requiring long hours of hard work. One can despise the result but can't ignore the dedication. Also, the top rulebreaker must have defeated a wide variety of

top athletes. He must be able to cheat against a variety of styles. This is more than an anti-popularity contest; it is also a recognition of despised skill. The winner of this award should be the one able to get away with the most for the longest period of time. Champions are of course eligible, although one man noted mostly for tag team work should not be included. Former winners include the Great Mephisto, Billy Graham and Sheik. This year's winner should be of the same ilk—despised! □

## ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

To qualify for this award, the wrestler must have begun his or her career during 1975. Wrestlers who hide their identities behind a mask are ineligible. There are two criteria for this honor. The first consideration is how well the grappler has done over the past year. One must examine the opponents battled and the success against them. A rookie who has taken on the best possible with limited success should rank higher than those who had great success against mediocrities. The second consideration should be how well this person can be expected to do in the future. Many athletes have a great rookie season but never equal their first year's accomplishments. The vote for the top rookie should also include a vote for the future. This is the wrestler you believe most likely to be tomorrow's superstar. Again, popularity has nothing to do with this award. Ability and promise for the future are what count most. Last year's winner was Ric Flair. Others

(Continued on page 62)



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## 1976 VOTE

(Continued from Page 60)



LAST YEAR'S WINNER:  
RIC FLAIR

picked for this honor were Larry Zbyszko, Bob Orton Jr., Tony Garea, and Mike Graham. This is the award most watched by the wrestling fraternity. Winning could mean a new, fat contract for the skilled young man or woman. □

## GIRL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

The top mat woman should be judged by the same rules as applies to the top man. Only skill and achievement are the standards by which the winner should be judged. Neither beauty nor popularity should be a consideration. Again, being champion has nothing to do with winning this award. Only her record for the past year should be considered—the past and the future have nothing to do with this honor. Only the 12 months encompassing 1976 should be judged. Regard should also be

given to how much the woman has contributed to the sport's growing popularity; whether or not she's brought any new fans into the arena. Woman wrestling is in a period of growth and change. The top gal grappler should have made a great contribution to the sport itself. Remember, because the women have their own separate category, this does not prevent them from being eligible in any other category, including "Wrestler of the Year." Winners in the recent past have included Ann Casey, Rachel Dubois, Joyce Grable and Vicki Williams. This year, the winner must represent all things to all women in the sport. □



LAST YEAR'S WINNER: ANN CASEY

## WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

This is the most prestigious award in all of wrestling. It's given to the man you, the fans, believe has enjoyed the greatest success in 1976. This man need not be a champion, though champions are of course included. This man must have dis-





LAST YEAR'S WINNER:  
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played greatness in the areas of achievement, ability, and contributions to the sport—not just popularity. One should also consider the quality of opponents a man has faced. Most good wrestlers can run up a string of victories against poor opponents. A man should also be judged by the variety of opponents he meets, and whether or not he challenges men of various styles. A rulebreaker who has been very successful over the year can also be considered—rulebreaking is an art, however vile and shabby. Anyone voting for a wrestler simply because he's nice or works often in an area is doing the sport a disservice. Success in the various areas of wrestling should be the only criterion. We repeat: this is not a popularity contest—that's

(Continued on page 64)

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## PACK DYNAMITE IN YOUR HANDS

NOW, THE FAMED "PRIESTS LIGHTENING BOLT"  
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credibly effective fighting technique utilizing the deadly Yawara,  
which was devised by CHINESE FIGHTING MONKS and  
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rips flesh, makes your opponents BEG for mercy.

### COMPLETELY LEGAL!

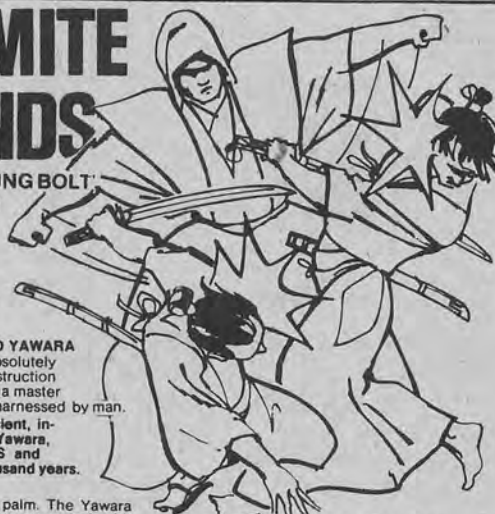
What's more, the Yawara defense weapon is perfectly legal. You need no  
permit to carry it, there are no laws against it.  
Unlike flick knives, switchblades and zip guns, the Yawara is harmless in  
itself. It is only deadly when you know how to use it. This means that even  
if an attacker should get hold of your weapon he is unable to use it against  
you. And because the Yawara is so small, you can carry it in your pocket  
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admire you when you prove how easily you can  
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And most important of all, prove to yourself that  
no one can push you around ever again!

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vinced, just return the book for a refund of your pur-  
chase price.

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## 1976 VOTE

(Continued from Page 63)

a separate category. Personal feelings should not influence the vote. Last year, Mr. Wrestling II won the prize. Bruno Sammar-

tino and Jack Brisco have been the winners in years past. Previous winners are eligible for this year. ☐

**Here are My Votes for the Best of 1976**

**WRESTLER OF THE YEAR**

**ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**

**MATCH OF THE YEAR**

**TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR**

**FEMALE WRESTLER OF THE YEAR**

**VILLAIN OF THE YEAR**

**MIDGET WRESTLER OF THE YEAR**

**INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR**

**MANAGER OF THE YEAR**

**MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR**

**YOUR NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

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LAST YEAR'S WINNER:  
MIL MASCARAS

## MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

This is the popularity contest — achievement is secondary. The winner of this award is a man or woman who has gained the loyalty and admiration of the fans, even if they can't explain exactly what attracts them to the athlete. He may be honored for activities inside or outside the arena; helping in charity drives would be a fine criteria for his being honored. However, grappling should be a consideration; not the skill, but the intent. He should above all be a man who is a sportsman, believing fair play to be more important than winning. He should also be known for his determination to wrestle scientifically, even under the most hazardous conditions. Often, fans forget to reward a wrestler for his cooperation with the referee. Here is the chance to make up for this slight. Most importantly, a wrestler should be honored for his treatment of the fans. As in all other categories, previous winners are again eligible. Mil Mascaras won the award last year, succeeding Billy Robinson. Each year, this is the most hotly contested category. And, as you can see, the winner is always a man of whom the wrestling fraternity can be proud. This year, the voters are obligated to continue in this tradition. For many, this is the most important award of the year.

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\*MAN GROWS to 40 and sometimes 50" according to late Curator of Physical Anthropology of the Smithsonian Institute. Some facts recently confirmed by Washington Doctor.

"The Influence of Exercise on Growth" revealed by U.S. Surgeon. (From the Journal of Experimental Medicine.) A controlled group experiment.

"GAINS IN HEIGHT and weight as a result of experiments on boys from 12 to 17." Studies in Physical Development and Posture. (From U.S. Public Health Bulletin.)

Mr. C.A. claims and testifies to HEIGHT INCREASE of 1 1/2" at age of 54.

Mr. A.S. writes to leading newspaper how father INCREASED HEIGHT by 1 1/2".

Medical literature reveals SPINAL GROWTH can be interrupted by excessive pressures and if deformity can be corrected, provided that they have not been irreversibly damaged — GROWTH WILL RESUME. N.Y. Academy of Medicine.

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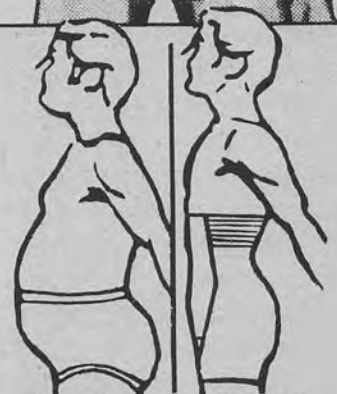
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